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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 13

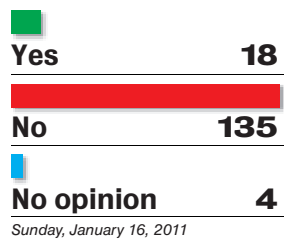
MONDAY JANUARY 17, 2011

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POLL RESULTS

Is CUC doing enough to explain why it needs to increase its power rates at this time?



INSIDE



Cash Crop

A longtime agriculture consultant said the CNMI has a great potential to develop and establish dragon fruit planting and production.

Local...Page 7



Russian New Year

"S Prazdnikom" or Happy Holidays greetings filled the air and bright fireworks illuminated the night sky.

Life & Style...Page 18

Fund's unfunded liability jumps \$680M. PAGE 2
Over 150 educators still non-HQT. PAGE 3

CNMI gov't pays lawyers up to \$200 an hour

» Based on CPA, CUC, MPLT, Governor's Office, OAG responses to OGA requests for documents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



BOOSTING TOURISM

Tourists and residents walking along the Beach Road pathway in San Jose get to enjoy Saipan's lovely sunset on Saturday. To help boost the CNMI's ailing tourism industry, the Fitial administration and the Legislature agreed to pass and sign into law a bill that would provide up to \$6.2 million in incentives for tour agents that will be able to bring in tourists from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya during the periods when arrivals are historically low. The administration-sponsored bill is expected to pass the House in its next session.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The CNMI government and at least three of its independent agencies have been paying lawyers between \$95 and \$200 an hour, while others are paid up to \$80,000 a year from 2008 to present.

For the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. alone, billings and invoices for two of five counsels exceed \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 alone.

The representations have been for a host of reasons, including an hourly \$200 fee for the law office of G. Anthony Long who represents Attorney



Sablan

See LAWYERS on Page 4

Stanley: It wouldn't have made a difference had I voted for Diego

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) should not be disappointed with him because even if he voted for him on Thursday, Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) still had 11 votes to become the new speaker.



Torres

"It wouldn't have made a difference because I was the 12th person. I had to make a decision," Torres said in a phone interview yesterday afternoon.

By a 12-7 vote, Cabrera won against Benavente, who was nominated by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) in absentia on Thursday when Benavente was in Guam for a meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank board of directors.

Torres said had he voted for Benavente, he would become a member of the minority which he said would be less desirable than being a member of the majority in the 20-member House of Representatives.

"Diego should not be disappointed with me, and Joe. We were solid 10 until Wednesday af-

See STANLEY on Page 4

Mobil follows Shell's 8-cent price hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Just as Saipan motorists had anticipated, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased the pump prices of its gasoline products by 8 cents a gallon on Saturday morning, a day after Shell Marianas also hiked its prices.

Shell and Mobil's 8-cent a gallon increase came after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. raised its power rate effective last Thursday.

This is the first round of gasoline price increase in 2011, and the seventh since 2010.

It was also the second increase in less than three weeks since the last gas price hike of 10 to 12 cents a gallon in December.

Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least \$1.50 a gallon in gasoline prices from what they used to pay prior to February 2009.

A gallon of self-service regular gasoline at Mobil and Shell now costs

\$4.209, up 8 cents from \$4.129 a gallon.

Full-service regular gasoline also went up to \$4.339 a gallon, from only \$4.259.

Mobil and Shell's self-service premium gasoline is now \$4.529 a gallon, an increase of 8 cents from \$4.449 a gallon.

Every gallon of full-service premium gasoline at Mobil and Shell is now \$4.649.

Diesel also went up by 8 cents, from \$4.339 a gallon to \$4.419 a gallon.

Saipan motorists interviewed after the recent price hike expressed disappointment that gasoline prices continue to go up, along with power rates, yet their salaries remain the same.

Motorists, however, conceded that they could not do anything about the continuous price increases, so they would just cut on other household expenses to be able to live within their means.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

New prices reflecting an 8-cent a gallon increase effective Saturday is posted at the Mobil Oil Mariana Islands service station in San Jose, a day after Shell Marianas also raised its pump prices on Friday.

Local

Fund's unfunded liability jumps \$680M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund recorded an estimated \$680 million in accrued unfunded liability as of Oct. 31, which reflects a significant jump from the over \$520 million posted in May last year.

This means for every dollar that the Fund owes beneficiaries, only about 34 cents is funded and the rest is unfunded.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez disclosed the agency's accrued unfunded liability during a board meeting last Friday, adding that the figure is

based on the report of Wilshire Associates, its new investment consultant.

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2007, the Fund recorded over \$360 million in accrued unfunded liability to the Defined Benefit or DB plan mainly due to the government's failure to remit contributions to the local pension system and the value of its assets that fell continuously.

According to an actuarial report, Fund's total invested assets in September 2007 totaled \$491.4 million. By September 2008, its assets fell to \$388.3 million—marking losses in excess of \$160 million—as the

global international stock markets saw an unprecedented upheaval during the period.

While the Fund's invested assets steadily declined, its liabilities to a growing number of retirees increased.

Since 2007, all new hires of the government are automatically vested to the DC plan. DB plan members also have the option to transfer to the DC plan based on certain conditions.

Villagomez reported last Friday that the Fund's investment portfolio totaled \$320 million as of Dec. 31, 2010. It was earlier disclosed that for the Fund to be fully funded until 2045, it needs

about \$860 million in investment fund.

According to Fund chair Sixto Igisomar, the board will surely cut down the number of its present money managers based on the new asset allocation plan to be implemented by Wilshire Associates.

Igisomar and board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* last Friday that the Fund currently has 10 money managers following the pullout of investments from two money managers—JP Morgan and Nicholas Applegate.

Fund officials disclosed that one of the two money managers had closed down while the other one was terminated due

to poor performance.

"For sure, we will cut some money managers and some may also be retained. It depends on our new asset allocation plan which is a new style of how our investments will be done," said Igisomar.

The Fund had already announced request for proposals for different categories of money managers. Wilshire is working with the Fund on its final selection to be recommended to the board, according to Igisomar.

Revocation of supervision sought for man convicted of passing fake bills

The U.S. Probation Office has moved for the revocation of the supervised release of a man who was among the three persons convicted of passing fake bills to some stores on Saipan.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday that Lucas Taitano Manglona has violated some conditions of his supervision.

Arriola said Manglona failed to refrain from the use of illegal drugs and consume any alcoholic beverages.

Arriola said the probationer also violated the condition that requires him to participate in a substance abuse program, which may include testing to determine whether he has reverted to the use of drugs or alcohol.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman has issued summons for Manglona to appear in court and explain why his supervision should not be revoked.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the assistance of the

Last Friday, the board decided to postpone the agency's annual meeting supposedly set for February pending the final selection of new money managers who will be invited to present in the annual assembly.

The board of trustees earlier selected the moderate-alternative approach in its investments. This method involves "more gutsy" efforts in order to obtain a higher return but faced with a little bit risk. It was described as a "safe" approach for the Fund.

local police, busted Manglona, Nestor Taitano, and Kisha Lyn Masga King in 2009 for using fake money to defraud at least four establishments. All defendants pleaded guilty.

Manglona was sentenced in September 2009 to one year and one day in prison. After serving the jail term, he was placed on three years of supervised release.

Manglona's supervision commenced on Jan. 8, 2010.

Probation Officer Arriola stated in his report that on June 2, 2010, the court modified the supervision of Manglona to remove the community service condition and order the defendant to participate in a substance abuse program due to admission of drug use.

Arriola said that, on July 21, 2010, the court again modified the supervision of Manglona to include one month of electronic monitoring.

The U.S. Probation Office found out that Manglona again has violated some conditions of his supervision. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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JUST SIX MONTHS TO DEADLINE:

Over 150 educators still non-HQT

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Barely six months before the deadline of the No Child Left Behind Act's highly qualified personnel mandate, the CNMI Public School System still has 154 teachers who have yet to meet the requirements.

If the non-HQT personnel fail to pass the rigorous standards by July 31, they will lose their jobs, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

To this end, Sablan is asking non-HQT educators to seriously work on completing all requirements set by the board of education.

In 2006, the CNMI State Board of Education adopted three requirements for classroom teachers to become highly qualified, pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act's highly qualified personnel mandate.

These three requirements include possessing a degree, valid teaching certificates, and passing the Praxis 1 and 2 tests.

An HQT compensation plan was also adopted by the board of education which provides higher wage for qualified teachers in the Commonwealth—from \$28,000 annual salary up to \$47,000 per year depending on their qualifications and credentials.

The NCLB set for all U.S. states and territories to fill all classrooms with only highly qualified teachers by July 31, 2011.

Sablan disclosed that currently PSS still has 28 teachers who need to pass Praxis 1 and 30 educators have to pass Praxis 2. Meanwhile, 96 teachers need to pass both tests. She said out of PSS' over 560 teachers, 77 percent are HQTs.

"Our numbers are slowly changing...as of December, we have a very nice profile on the number of teachers who need Praxis 1 only which is just 28. That's a good sign because a lot of teachers are

getting there to get the HQT requirement. We have about 30 teachers who need to pass Praxis 2 test only. However, we have still a big group who are needing to pass both Praxis 1 and 2....96 teachers have to pass both tests," said Sablan.

With all the programs set in place to assist those non-HQTs, the commissioner said she is very "confident" and "optimistic."

She said besides the school level programs, these non-HQTs also have access to state-level professional development sessions that would help them to complete the requirements. Saturday and after-school trainings for them were also initiated in their respective schools as well as summer programs where instructors from University of Guam and Northern Marianas College provided lessons.

'Contingency plan set'

Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that PSS has already developed a contingency plan if it has a teacher shortfall next school year.

She admitted that no extension will be provided for the HQT requirements and PSS will no longer employ non-highly qualified teachers inside its classrooms.

"In the event that these teachers do not pass [the Praxis]....PSS has developed a contingency plan on how we're going to facilitate any shortfall. They need to meet the requirements in order to continue teach inside the classrooms," she said.

At present, PSS employs teacher aides and teacher assistants for all its schools.

These are educators who do not possess degrees, certifications, and Praxis.

Sablan said even instructors at PSS have to have the necessary requirements to continue serving the schools.

"We've been working on this [HQT issue] for quite some time now...and I am very hopeful that by July 2011, all our teachers meet all the requirements. I would like to ask them to pass it as much as possible because we need them next school year..." she said.

For those teachers who will not pass, the commissioner said that she's hoping they will continue to complete the requirements and come back to PSS.

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2006	Toyota Camry XLE	22,705	\$14,995	2004	Hyundai Santa Fe	59,873	\$7,995
2008	Mazda Mazda3i	39,098	\$12,995	2007	Hyundai Accent	33,712	\$7,995
2007	Mazda Mazda3i	45,609	\$11,995	2006	Hyundai Accent	38,801	\$6,995
2004	Ford Explorer XLT	90,030	\$10,995	2003	Kia Sedona	103,205	\$3,595

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Manam islanders plight gets international scrutiny

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Manam Island issue is going global and Papua New Guinea authorities will be questioned about the ill-treatment of the islanders by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, in May.

A human rights activist was in PNG last November and visited the island.

A well-placed government source told The National that PNG authorities, including the Department of National

Planning, would have a lot of explaining as to why they did not fund the Manam resettlement exercise for 2011.

“The Manam people will be left to fend for themselves again for the seventh year in 2011 because the government cannot make a firm commitment as to what its decision-making body, national executive council, wants and what its medium-term development plan (MTDP) under the Department of National Planning supports, the source said. All that seem to be happening more frequently is that the public ser-

vice tends to play more politics where some key government bodies and agencies appear to work in total isolation of the rest of the government. This only brings about more confusion, contradiction and now a self-convincing state that the MTDP is the solution to a more policy-driven budget.”

Papua New Guinea is due to report to the human rights council in Geneva in May.

This universal periodic review session is a regular, every four to five year exercise for all countries where author-

ities report on and respond to questions on progress regarding treaty ratification, implementation and the protection of human rights in general.

It is understood that the most important human rights findings from the recent Manam Island mission would be sent to Geneva to be put on official record and then put to the PNG authorities at the session.

“We can also raise forced eviction, health, security issues etc, according to the activist. That would be excellent exposure of the plight of the islanders,

and serve to put high level pressure on the authorities to explain what they are doing and to act to resolve the resettlement issue. In addition to the 2011 session in Geneva, such a report would usually lead to the special procedures unit of the Human Rights Commission contacting the PNG authorities in writing and presenting the info received from us, and request a response and additional info from the government.”

The source said it was also in line with the need “to bring Manam higher on the national and international agenda”.

STANLEY

From Page 1

ternoon when Eli Cabrera’s group said they had 11 votes. I was the 12th. So on Thursday morning, I went to the meeting of the majority to see for myself whether they really had 11 votes. When I confirmed that, I decided to make a decision. When I become a member of the minority, then that would be very difficult to do a lot of things,” he said.

Benavente, in a separate interview, reiterated yesterday that Torres and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) promised him on Monday that they would

vote for him should there be reorganization.

“Now Joe Palacios could also claim that he’s also 12th vote,” Benavente said. “If it weren’t for the two of them who committed to me and had they not attended the meeting with Eli or voted for him... It was obvious what they did. I don’t know who they’re trying to fool.”

Benavente said he has learned to accept the wish of the majority and move on.

“Whether I’m happy with it or not, this is politics. Some members of the group are taking it harder than I am. Given the administration’s ability to influence members’ vote, I knew that was

a real possibility,” he said.

Torres said while it’s true that he told the minority on Monday that there would be a “Solid 10” in support of Benavente, that changed on Wednesday afternoon when Cabrera was sure of at least 11 votes.

“I’m sorry that Diego feels that way. I tried to help him but something went wrong. That’s politics. You have to strategize,” he said.

Torres said he and Benavente have worked together for 16 years at the Legislature.

“I made my judgment. I will still be talking to Diego, but if he doesn’t want to talk to me, that’s his choice,”

he added.

Benavente said his biggest concern is the same composition of the House leadership.

“This is the same leadership as last year when nothing happened, except embarrassment. You can expect the same from the same group,” he added.

Benavente left for Guam on Wednesday morning. Shortly thereafter, then Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan)—who had long wanted to step down as speaker—called for a session for Thursday afternoon. In the morning of Thursday, Tenorio met with 11 other members including Joseph Palacios and Torres.

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, said he thought that it would be easier for those who earlier committed to vote for him to later on vote for someone else, when he was not around.

During Thursday afternoon’s session when only Benavente was the absent member, his fellow minority members accused the majority of ramrodding the process to get Cabrera voted. After debating, the majority gave in to allow Joe Deleon Guerrero’s nomination of Benavente in absentia.

The House, however, did not vote to replace vice speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan) and floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

LAWYERS

From Page 1

General Ed Buckingham in his official capacity as AG and in his personal capacity in connection with the hosting of a delegate candidate at the governor’s private residence in Gualo Rai.

These are based on several pages of documents so far provided to former representative Tina Sablan, who filed Open Government Act requests for information on employment and independent legal service contracts executed by the government from January 2008 to present.

The OGA requests that Sablan, attorney Mark Hanson and retiree William R. Barrineau made covered at least 19 government agencies and corporations. Hanson later withdrew his personal request and asked that documents be sent to Sablan instead.

Among the documents so far obtained came from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, CUC, the Marianas Public Land Trust, the Office of the Governor, and the Office of the Attorney General.

AG’s Office

Since 2008, notices of personnel action have been provided for nearly 40 attorneys employed at or appointed for the Office of the Attorney General.

These attorneys general, acting attorneys general, deputy attorneys general, assistant attorneys general, and division chiefs have been paid \$45,000 to \$80,000 a year.

In addition, the law office of G. Anthony Long is being paid \$200 an hour to represent Buckingham in his “official capacity” as CNMI attorney general and in his “personal capacity” in connection with the notice of alleged criminal and ethical violations investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Results of the OPA investigation on Buckingham have yet to be made public as of yesterday.

Sablan said it is important to note

that CNMI taxpayers are being made to pay for Buckingham’s lawyer’s fees for his involvement in alleged criminal and ethical violations when he hosted Covenant Party delegate Joe Camacho at the governor’s private residence in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28, 2010.

Governor’s Office

Although the Office of the Governor submitted a list of disbursements made from the governor’s account since 2008, no billings or contracts were provided.

These included disbursements to Fitial’s former and current counsels Joel Bergsma, Howard Willens, Deanne Siemer, and Jenner & Block LLP, which is representing the governor in the federalization lawsuit.

CUC

In 2004, CUC’s in-house counsel Kathryn Delafield had a contract of \$64,998.75.

From 2009 to 2010, CUC’s in-house counsel Timothy Connor, who later passed away, was paid \$62,000 a year.

From FYs 2009 to 2010, CUC entered into a contract with the law office of Deborah E. Fisher which later became Fisher Huesman LLC, for \$150 an hour.

Fisher Huesman took over litigation previously handled by the late in-house counsel Timothy Connor, including the U.S. v. CUC (stipulated orders), Malate v. CUC; matter of Bruce Megarr related to a U.S. Department of Labor complaint, other in-house matters excluding procurement, managing outside counsels, and matters where there are conflicts of interest.

Sablan said CUC provided three invoices for November to December 2009, and 54 invoices for January to November 2010.

“The descriptions of services were redacted, but invoices do indicate subject matters covered and time spent. The contract notes ‘DCM matter’ that will be put on hold ‘in favor of other, more pressing matters’ until further instruction from CUC,” Sablan said.

The contractor also receives office space and administrative assistance, and will maintain files until the engagement of a new CUC in-house counsel.

“Billings for FY 2010 alone exceed \$100,000,” Sablan said.

CUC also has a contract with the law office of Joshua Berger for \$135 an hour as an administrative hearing officer.

Sablan said CUC produced five invoices covering June to December 2009, and four invoices from April to August 2010. She said the contract is not meant to exceed \$50,000 a year.

CUC also has a \$175 an hour contract with Alan Barak for matters related to the following: Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on electric, water, and wastewater rate cases; CUC-Commonwealth Development Authority debt-to-equity swap; interim financial plan required by stipulated order due August 2009; renewable energy portfolio requirements due August 2009; monthly CUC emergency disaster declarations; and stimulus grants, among other things.

Sablan said CUC provided copies of eight invoices covering July to December 2009, and nine invoices covering February to November 2010.

“Invoices for FY 2010 alone exceed \$200,000,” Sablan said.

CUC also has a \$95 an hour contract with James Sirok as administrative hearing officer.

Sablan said CUC produced four invoices covering July to October 2010.

CPA

CPA has at least six legal service contracts from 2008 to present, including one for \$200 an hour to the law offices of Timothy H. Bellas that was executed in October 2008.

But Sablan said CPA provided only two billings dated October and November 2009. The contract is to represent the CPA Appeals Committee in reviewing an appeal filed by a contractor protesting the award of a construction contract.

CPA also has an agreement with at-

torney Robert Tenorio Torres for \$150 an hour, for the collection of delinquent accounts, for a Telesource administrative appeal related to the airport, and other matters that the CPA board of directors assigned.

A 2008 email indicated that the original rate was \$185 an hour, but was subsequently lowered to \$150 an hour.

“No billings provided by CPA. Only summary of checks issued from FY 2008 to 2010,” Sablan said.

Sablan, who has been advocating for transparency and accountability in government, said the original engagement letter was executed in 2005, which also included paralegal services at a rate of \$90 an hour and associate counsel at a rate of \$125 an hour.

CPA also has a \$70,000 annual contract with staff attorney Jose Bermudes in 2009 and 2010. As in-house counsel, Bermudes provides legal advice to the CPA board, the executive director and deputy director. Austerity measures would apply to this contract.

In 2010, CPA also had a contract with the law office of Ed Manibusan for \$180 an hour, related to Chong’s Corp. procurement appeal.

Sablan said CPA provided only one invoice dated April 2010.

CPA also has a \$150 an hour contract with the law office of (Janet) King, in connection with Torres Refrigeration’s administrative appeal.

Sablan said the contract was executed in November 2010, and CPA provided billings for November and December 2010.

MPLT

MPLT has a \$120 to \$150 an hour contract with the law office of Robert T. Torres for legal services.

Sablan said among the documents she received were request for proposals for legal services that MPLT issued in March 2007 and the at least four proposals received including Torres’, which was the one accepted.

In 2010, the MPLT board asked Torres to submit a lower fee structure. MPLT was to issue another RFP unless

a revised fee structure was deemed reasonable.

“Torres did so,” Sablan said.

MPLT produced 11 invoices covering January to December 2008; 10 invoices covering January to October 2009; and nine invoices covering February to October 2010.

Sablan said in 2010, Torres charged \$120 an hour for meetings, from \$125 an hour.

In 2010, he charged \$125 an hour for litigation, from the previous \$150.

He also charged \$150 an hour for off-island meetings, from \$175.

“Subject matters in all billings were redacted,” Sablan said.

Sablan, Barrineu and earlier, Hanson, filed 18 OGA requests for information from 17 government agencies. Sablan later added two more agencies.

“Legal services have historically been, and continue to be, a major government expenditure, as well as a significant source of abuse. We intend to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and may take further action as necessary,” Sablan had said.

Under the Open Government Act, government officials and agencies shall respond to requests for information within 10 days and make public records available for inspection. Government agencies can charge a reasonable fee for copying requested documents.

Sablan filed requests for information from other agencies but whose data have yet to be either provided or compiled, including the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Commerce, Department of Finance, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, Department of Public Lands, Department of Labor, Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, NMI Retirement Fund. She later filed additional requests for data from Finance, for information related to the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau.

3 more Korean investors sued over school's lease of properties

A private corporation has sued three more Korean investors to clear the title of two lots that were previously rented by the American Mediscience University in Finasisu.

SL Corp., through counsel Juan T. Lizama, sued Ok Ju Min, Jin Youl Kim, and Sun U. Lee.

SL Corp. asked the Superior Court to terminate the leasehold mortgages and the agreement entered by the defendants in connection with the properties.

The plaintiff requested the court that the defendants be ousted and permanently restrained from asserting any right, title, or interest whatsoever in the subject real properties.

SL Corp. also asked the court to require the defendants pay rent now due under the subject ground leases in connection with the two properties.

Lizama stated in the complaint that SL Corp. is the fee simple owner of Lot 216-2-1 and Lot 216-3.

Lizama said Min executed and

recorded a leasehold mortgage document in connection with the two lots on Aug. 11, 2008.

The lawyer said the American Mediscience University executed the leasehold mortgage as mortgagor.

Lizama said that the Superior Court in an entry of default judgment dated Dec. 22, 2010, has restrained the American Mediscience University from asserting any right, title, or interest in the two lots.

Lizama said the court subsequently terminated the subject ground leases in connection to the two properties.

The lawyer said his client is entitled to a judgment terminating the leasehold mortgage pursuant to the provisions of the ground leases of the properties.

Lizama said defendant Lee and Kim Sung Kyu of the American Mediscience University executed an agreement on May 1, 2008.

Lizama said the agreement was written in the Korean language.

"Unless the said agreement is terminated, plaintiff's title to the two said lots will remain affected," the counsel said.

Lizama said defendant Kim executed a leasehold mortgage on Nov. 3, 2008.

Lizama said the American Mediscience University executed the leasehold mortgage as mortgagor.

Unless the leasehold mortgage is terminated, the lawyer said, SL Corp.'s title to the lots will continue to be affected.

Lizama recently asked the court to authorize SL Corp. to publish summons for the defendants in at least one newspaper in the CNMI for four consecutive weeks as they could not be found in the NMI.

Last week, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman granted SL Corp.'s request for publication of summons.

In October 2010, SL Corp. sued the American Mediscience University and several other Korean investors over alleged non-payment of rent on its premises.

The plaintiff asked the court to terminate the ground leases and rule that SL Corp. shall take immediate possessions of the two properties.

The two premises where the Koresco Hotel building is located, have been reportedly abandoned for over two years now and have deteriorated immensely through vandalisms.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Visa free travel to Latvia granted for citizens of the CNMI, Taiwan

By ALLA PETROVA
THE BALTIC COURSE

RIGA—From Jan. 11 onwards, the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands and Taiwan will be entitled to a visa-free travel to Latvia and other European Union member states, to European Economic Area, and Swiss Confederation.

The Northern Mariana Islands and Taiwan have been included on the list of countries the nationals that do not require visas to enter the territory of member states if the duration of their stay does not exceed 90 days within half a year. It must be noted that exemption from visa requirement applies only to the holders of Taiwan passports containing a personal identity card number, informed BC press service of Latvian Foreign Ministry.

The above is set forth in the amendment to Council Regulation No. 539/2001 of March 15, 2001, listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. The amendments go into effect as of Jan. 11.

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Former DPS chief to testify in 'ice' trafficking case vs ex-cop

Defense attorney Michael N. Evangelista has informed the federal court of his intent to present an expert testimony of former representative and Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita in the case against former policeman Florencio Q. Richards who is facing charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Evangelista notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Norita will testify about police procedures.

The jury trial of the 32-year-old Richards will be on Feb. 7, 2011.

Evangelista said Norita is currently the president of Jural Group, an information and security consulting company in the CNMI.

Norita told Evangelista that the

Superior Court has certified him to testify as an expert witness on the DPS policies and standard operating procedures, and the cultivation, packaging, and distribution of marijuana in the CNMI.

The U.S. government recently also informed the federal court of its plan to present an expert testimony of a senior forensic chemist of the Drug Enforcement Administration in the case against Richards.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto said DEA senior forensic chemist Helene Jensen conducted the examinations and analyses of the substances that were allegedly seized from Richards.

In her summary of testimony, Jensen confirmed that the samples contained methamphet-

amine substances.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010 to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

On July 15, 2010, the CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda Omengkar inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." At the time, Richards was off-duty.

The Superior Court last week granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to dismiss the separate criminal case against Richards. The case against Omengkar is still pending in the local court. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Feds opposes Villagomez's, Santos couple's latest motion for release

» Prosecutor says 9th Circuit should decide the release issue, not the district court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has opposed another motion for release on bail—pending their appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit—filed jointly by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley said the U.S. District Court for the NMI has completed its job of "fact finding," and as designated district court judge Mark W. Bennett declared in the Nov. 24, 2010 order, he has left the "legal implications" of his findings for the Ninth Circuit to assess.

As such, O'Malley said, the Ninth Circuit may be better positioned to assess the likelihood outcome for the defendants Villagomez's and Santos couple's claim, and their present motion for release.

"Although district courts are usually better poised to determine whether release is appropriate, having greater familiarity with the facts, it is a question of practicality," he said.

The prosecutor said if the arguments raised are more legal, and if the appellate court is likely to be more familiar with the legal issues, it may be appropriate for that court to consider the motion.

Villagomez and the Santos couple moved the federal court to release them on bail pending the conclusion of their appeal in the Ninth Circuit.

The defendants, through their respective lawyers, asserted that they don't pose risk of flight or danger to the public if released

pending appeal. They also argued that relevant precedent requires that they present a "fairly debatable" appellate question in order to secure a release order under the statute.

After conducting an evidentiary hearing on Nov. 9 and 10, 2010, Judge Bennett later ruled on Nov. 24 that there was no order from either then federal court judge Alex R. Munson or the U.S. Marshal's Office to bar members of the public or family members from the courtroom during the jury selection in the defendants' trial.

Bennett, however, determined that there is "simply no credible evidence" that any members of the public were allowed into the courtroom at any time during jury selection.

The evidentiary hearing sought to determine whether or not Munson closed the jury selection to the public. It was held to settle the record in the trial.

The defendants sought to settle the record so they could bolster their assertions—on appeal in the Ninth Circuit—that their constitutional rights were violated when the public was completely excluded from jury selection. If there was a violation, the defendants believe this could ultimately reverse their convictions.

In the U.S. government's opposition to the motion for release, O'Malley noted that the defendants' attempted several times to obtain release pending appeal, but all failed.

O'Malley said Bennett's Nov. 24 order makes numerous observations and suggestions as to how Judge Munson and the court's security staff could have

better handled the problem of public seating, but which fall into neither the "findings" nor "non-findings" category.

With respect to the defendants' "fairly debatable" question, the prosecutor said it has not because Bennett's order to have the evidentiary hearing was based on a faulty legal premise and that Bennett's Nov. 24 evidentiary hearing's decision is plainly unreasonable and will likely be stricken.

Even assuming the Nov. 24 order was properly issued and well-founded, O'Malley said it still does not provide defendants with a "fairly debatable" issue.

He added that although the federal court can entertain the present motion to release, the question is more properly put to the Ninth Circuit.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are now serving their sentences in federal prison after the jury found them guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

The case came to be called the Rydlyme scandal, the biggest yet in CNMI history.

Inos names another acting Finance secretary

Acting Governor Eloy S. Inos named Larissa Larson as acting Finance secretary, taking over the temporary post of Connie Agulto who is on personal leave.

Larson is a financial analyst under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

"Please extend your full cooperation to Ms. Larson as she assumes and carries out the additional duties," Inos said in his Jan. 10, 2011 memo to department and activity heads.

Agulto has been acting Finance secretary since November 2011 or right after Bob Schrack vacated the post on Oct. 31.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said Agulto is currently on personal leave to tend to her mother's upcoming death anniversary.

"Thus, Larson has since been charged with overseeing the Department of Finance in the absence of a nomination yet to be made by the administration. In the meantime, the administration is confident that Larson has the skills necessary to carry out this additional responsibility in the interim," Demapan said yesterday.

The press secretary also confirmed that Agulto had made known that she has no intention of taking over the helm at Finance since Schrack left the department last year.

The Fitial administration also has yet to officially appoint Sixto Igisomar as Commerce secretary, although Igisomar has been acting Finance secretary since Michael Ada left the post last year. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB11-GOV-002



Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the TP-1 WATER WELL and WATER LINE CONNECTION in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- 1,700 linear feet of 4" diameter water main and appurtenances
- Installation of one wellhead plumbing system, with pump/motor, drop pipe, power line, etc.
- Well pump installation
- Construction of one electrical control building with fencing, gates and slab
- Connection to the existing valving at the Capitol Hill Reservoir

Construct all work in strict accordance with the Plans and Specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the Contract.

A non-refundable payment of \$300 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **January 10, 2011** at the Water Task Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on January 21, 2011**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on January 20, 2011.

Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-002"** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **February 8, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **February 8, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 8, 2011**, and must be received no later than **February 17, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **February 18, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **February 9, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial,
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
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TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 First General Membership on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the Azucena I, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'10 4th Meeting Minutes (09/15/10)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. SRC Chair
- VI. Election of Officers: Chair, Fiscal Officer, & Secretary
- VII. Approval of 2011 Resource Plan
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

Cabrera sees potential in dragon fruit planting

»Agriculture consultant says crop can be exported



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Isidoro T. Cabrera, a long-time agriculture consultant on island, shows one of the pitaya cuttings being grown in the As Perdido research experiment station. A climbing cactus with triangular and jointed green stems, pitaya plant produces dragon fruit, a good source of vitamin C, fiber, minerals, and antioxidants.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A longtime agriculture consultant said the CNMI has a great potential to develop and establish dragon fruit planting and production.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Isidoro T. Cabrera disclosed that the islands are conducive for growing dragon fruit which has a lot of nutritional benefits as well as economic value.

Native to Central and South America, dragon fruit comes from a climbing cactus plant known as pitaya which usually thrives in humid environment such as Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Dragon fruits are a good source of vitamin C, rich in fiber and minerals like phosphorus and calcium, and also contain significant quantities of antioxidants which inhibit the formation of free radicals that cause cancer.

Cabrera said growing the pitaya plant is highly feasible in the Commonwealth as it has the ideal climate and the plant is drought-tolerant and requires only minimal labor and maintenance.

"You don't spend a lot for overhead in growing pitaya. It's basically a self-sustaining plant. No irrigation is needed and summer is also not a concern since it's a cactus," he explained.

Cabrera said that the pitaya can be left alone to grow until such time that the green stems almost touches the ground. "It will bear fruits good enough for you and the generations after

you," he added.

He said the plant can grow either by planting the seeds of the fruit or by pruning which is more preferred.

According to Cabrera, it takes about two years to grow and that a mature pitaya is able to produce fruits for an average of 35 years.

Cabrera added that to date, there are no known significant diseases to affect pitaya production that would cause concern for farmers who plan to start growing the plant.

Although a few individuals on Saipan and Tinian have been growing pitaya in their backyards, Cabrera noted that it was only in December 2009 when he conducted a formal research and experiment study on the plant after a trip to Vietnam.

Cabrera said he went on a study trip to Nong Lam University in October of last year where he met with Faculty of Agronomy acting dean Dr. Vo Thai Dan to visit dragon fruit farms and observe their cultivation and production methods.

The study trip was prompted by Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service director Ross Manglona's participation in a cultural exchange program in Okinawa, Japan in 2008.

There, Manglona first learned about the dragon fruit and discussed it with NMC-CREES researchers and consultants.

Dr. Dilip Nandwani, plant pathologist at NMC-CREES, did his research and discovered that dragon fruit production has long been an ongoing

industry in Vietnam, exporting the fruit to countries such as Canada and Australia.

During the Vietnam trip,

Cabrera found out about the technology on dragon fruit production used by farmers and producers, including pruning techniques and appropriate distance of planting.

After the trip, Cabrera began his experiments at the As Perdido research experiment station where he started to grow 60 pruned pitaya cuttings attached to a 5-ft tall concrete slab in a 10x8 ft spacing.

Cabrera also began discussing the technology and the potential of producing dragon fruit among local farmers as well as to those who are al-

ready growing the plants without proper knowledge on the appropriate techniques.

According to Cabrera, island residents should start thinking about dragon fruit production as a prospective industry in the CNMI as they can market the fruit to tourists but can also export it to major countries.

He said in Hawaii alone, one pound of dragon fruit in the market costs about \$8, which could mean that production of the fruit can be a wise investment for the farmers.

"I really have high hopes in the potential of this crop in

terms of bringing in more income for our local farmers," he added.

With the dragon fruit's potential, Cabrera said he is planning to tap federal funds to increase their knowledge and awareness as well as aid their research study about the pitaya plant.

Cabrera said he is giving away a limited number of pitaya cuttings and sharing what he knows about pitaya technology as form of startup assistance to those farmers who are interested in growing them.

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MHS Coffee Shop Trial a success

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-one Marianas High School students took part in the 5th Annual Coffee Shop Trial held at Java Joe's last Saturday.

The event is part of the school's advance placement world history class under Dr. Chas Algaier, who lauded the group's performance in the three-hour competition.

Algaier said the objective of the event was to simulate and examine issues that affect world history which is part of the subject's unit 3 lesson.

Simulation is the process of imitation of some real thing, state of affairs, or process. The act of simulating something generally entails representing certain key characteristics or behaviors of a selected physical or abstract system.

During Saturday's competition, the three-member prosecution panel of Vinni Orsini, Michelle Ngirbabul, and Francisco Deleon Guerrero successfully presented their views how coffee has affected the health of people.

The group was adjudged winners of the event that also saw the participation of many "professionals" as witnesses to the case.

"It was really a good experience. It's interesting for us to know more about coffee,



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Marianas High School AP World History Class under Dr. Chas Algaier pose after the successful holding of the 5th Annual Coffee Shop Trial at Java Joe's last Saturday.

how it started, and its effect on our body," said Orsini after the event, adding that the "trial" helped developed students' appreciation for small things and issues in the past that created impact in the world—such as coffee.

Francisco Deleon Guerrero said he was satisfied with the turnout for the event, which took the group about two weeks to prepare for arguments, views,

witnesses, and facts.

During the "trial" Deleon Guerrero effectively persuaded jurors on his argument by presenting "characters" that supported his views. Based on his research, "coffee has bad effects on people's health."

Claire Omos, who served as the "trial judge," described the overall performance of the class as excellent and lauded the cooperation and participation of

each member.

"It feels good! Although it's my first time...I can say, I learned a lot from this experience," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among the witnesses presented for the "trial" was Atty. Matthew Gregory.

According to Algaier, by putting students to simulation, this helps them to use of their memory and emotions to effectively communicate and present their views on important issues in the past.

"[Today] everyone is a winner," he added.

Independent living council seeks to get reps from Tinian, Rota

For the longest time, the Statewide Independent Living Council has lacked representatives from the islands of Tinian and Rota.

"We lack representatives from Rota and Tinian. We are depriving these islands the voices and services that they deserve," said chair Stephen Dutro.

Dutro told *Saipan Tribune* that they have been getting a lot of feedbacks from residents on the two islands.

"They want to get more involved with the council," he added.

According to Dutro, the council plans to address this challenge this year by working closely with the elected leaders of these island municipalities.

"We will work with the mayor's offices of the two islands since they will be the ones who have to select their representatives," he said.

Dutro added once the mayors submit their recommendations, council members will decide if the nominees are qualified to work in the council. (Clarissa V. David)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 17, 2000

CUC defends position

Disappointed with remarks made by Saipan Chamber of Commerce on the controversial power project, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez assured the business community that scrapping the 80-megawatt plant will save the agency from potential bankruptcy. In an open letter addressed to the business organization, the utility chief justified the decision made by CUC board in its meeting last Thursday as he said it was intended to bring down the costs associated with a project that is not needed by Saipan at this time. Mr. Villagomez' reaction came following the remark of Chamber President Lynn Knight who warned that canceling the initial request for proposal for the 80-MW plant would send a wrong signal to outside investors who might be turned off by this case.

Gov't extends state of emergency in Alamagan

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday extended the declaration of disaster emergency in the CNMI in the wake of the continued threat of major volcanic eruption in Alamagan, an island north of Saipan, which has alarmed officials since July last year. The extension means that the area remains off-limits to human habitation and that travel to the island is still restricted, except for monitoring activities conducted by authorities. According to the latest declaration by the governor, volcanic activity and seismic phenomena in Alamagan that prompted the initial emergency status continue to exist nearly six months after it showed signs of possible major eruption.

Jan. 17, 2001

Clamor for DC lobbyists backed

While recognizing the need to maintain a lobby firm to protect the interest of the CNMI, the Senate adopted a resolution yesterday emphasizing the importance of giving the contract not just to one lobbyist but to several firms in Washington. Amid constant threats of a federal takeover, the Senate resolution asked the governor to exercise restraint in the use of funds and not to expend more than what is actually necessary to protect and advance the interests of the Commonwealth. The governor may hire the services of the lobby firms in a manner consistent with the principles and safeguards of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations, the resolution added.

EAGI confirms 2 FTZ board members

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations confirmed the appointments of Theresa T. Ogomoro and George M. Fleming as members of the Free Trade Zone Authority Board. Their appointment completes the nine-member board that will administer the implementation of the free trade zones. Ms. Ogomoro is representing the Carolinians while Mr. Fleming is representing Saipan from the private sector. Former Rep. Karl T. Reyes, who helped craft the legislation that led to the creation of these special economic sites earlier got the Senate's nod. Other members are SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, Triple J. Motors executive Jay Jones, Philip Long from Tinian and Joaquin Atalig from Rota.

Jan. 17, 2002

No plans yet to change GHLIP rules

Despite the end of the comment period, the Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund has no immediate plans of implementing the proposed changes in the rules and regulations governing the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker said they will further study some of the comments submitted by individuals and different groups and see whether they can feasibly incorporate the suggestions into the proposed changes. At the same time, with only two board members sitting and no replacements yet in sight for those who have resigned, Troy-Rucker said the Fund is currently operating on status quo, they await the Babauta administration's new appointees to the Board of Trustees.

PSS to push for increase in federal funds

Still reeling from a financial crisis compounded by the September 11 attacks, the Public School System is poised to make an appeal for more federal assistance, pending executive action on a US measure that will reauthorize federal funds to insular areas and states. The PSS is upbeat in receiving funding increases from the CNMI's estimated \$5.4 million share under the US appropriation legislation, which will be made available in July through September this year.



NEW DANCE TROUPE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KID Legacy is a newly formed dance group for children ages 8 to 11. The new group is under the mentorship of Saipan Studio of Music and Dance in Garapan. KID Legacy performed during the New Year countdown at Aqua Resort Club last Dec. 31 as well as the Russian Christmas celebration at Pacific Islands Club last Jan. 7.

KID Legacy members Britney, Lila, Ann, Angel, Ariana, John, Christian, Zeke, and C.J. pose with PIC web marketing manager Elly Stoilova during the hotel's Russian Christmas celebration last Jan. 7.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pendants up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Bracelets .. up to \$2,500 | | |

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 17

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Behind the smoke screen

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Cigarette makers do a lot more than shred tobacco and roll it up in thin sheets of paper. A December report by the surgeon general's office outlined a host of changes that tobacco companies have made over the years to render smoking easier to start and harder to quit. For instance, vents and other filter designs make the smoke feel less harsh even though it does the same damage. A bigger, quicker hit of nicotine means faster addiction.

Strange to say, though, the government knows very little about these changes or when they took place or precisely what they entailed. Tobacco companies were never required by law to divulge the information, though some of it came out in class-action suits against the firms.

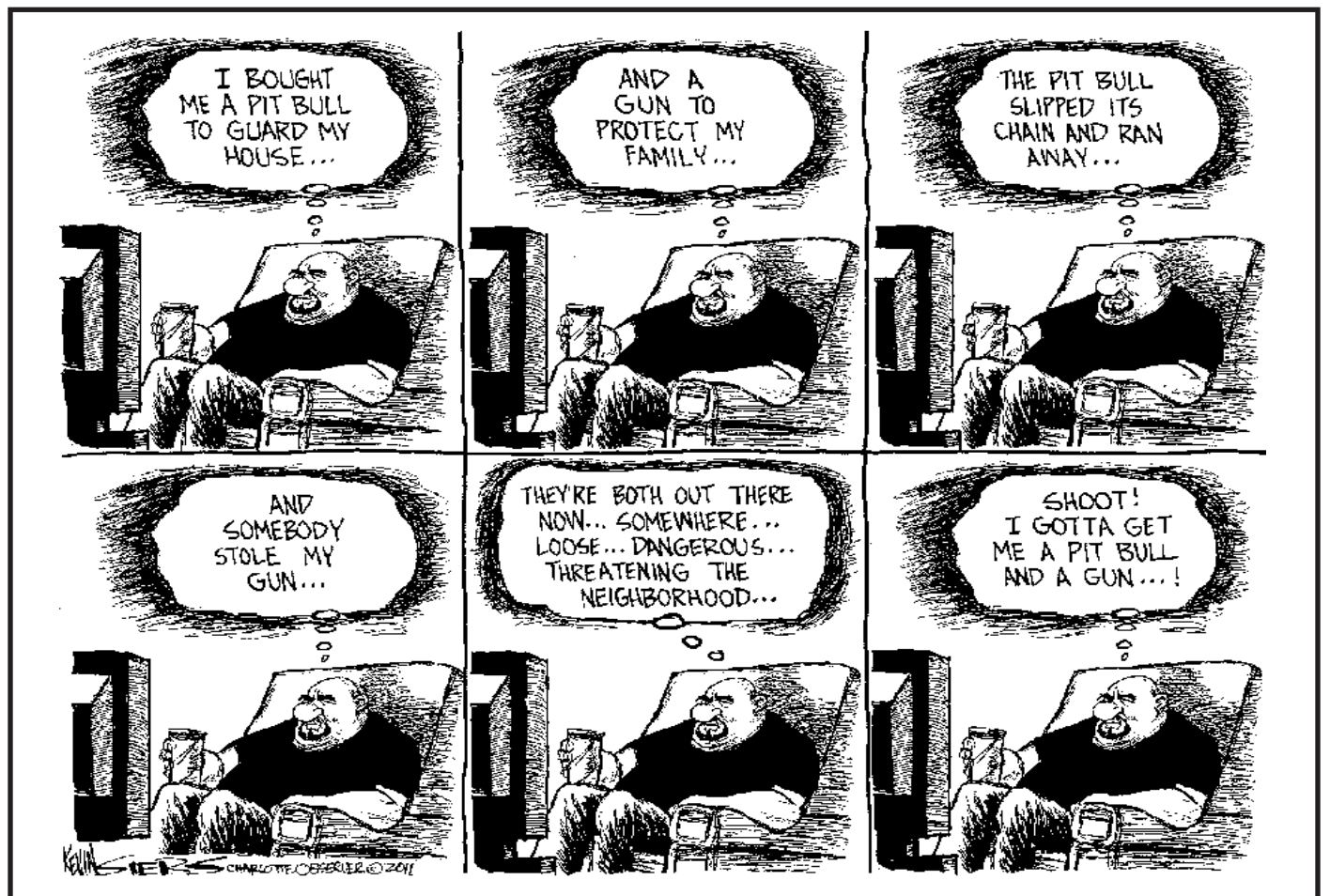
Packaged foods, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and even cosmetics must be sold with a list of ingredients on their labels, but not cigarettes. People can check the fine print to see what's in the shampoo they put on their hair but not the smoke that 20 percent of Americans inhale into their lungs.

Even the government hasn't been given access to basic information about cigarettes. That's being fixed right now thanks to a 2009 law that gave the FDA regulatory power over tobacco. Cigarette makers must provide a list of ingredients to the agency for each product. And this week, the FDA directed the companies to apply for permission if they want to change their products in any way and to disclose what the change is intended to accomplish. If the agency finds that the change will harm public health by, for example, making it easier for minors to develop a smoking habit or harder for them to quit, or delivering more toxic substances into a smoker's body, it can block the change. The agency will also be looking back at any changes made since early 2007.

Unfortunately, the public won't necessarily be privy to the same details. For each application, the FDA will decide whether the product information is a trade secret.

Even so, the new restrictions have enormous potential. Finally, a consumer protection agency will have access to information about important tobacco company practices, and the power to stop the most harmful of them. We predict that the companies will be less willing to even start the process once they know they'll be held accountable.

But we also hope the FDA will impose tight standards on what can and cannot be considered a secret. Knowledge is a powerful public weapon against cigarettes, and smokers deserve to know more about how they have been manipulated and harmed in the interests of pumping up tobacco company profits. As a society, we may never eliminate one of our oldest public health scourges, but we can encourage a newly informed public to rise up against it.



Several ways the CNMI can help itself to recover

Below are several things we can do to help lift ourselves out of the depression we are in. These are my personal suggestions presented here in the hope that they will be considered. Change, delete, amplify, or modify any of the suggestions. The main purpose here is to stimulate all of us to find and implement ideas to help ourselves become more independent financially from too much dependence on the local government and handouts from the United States government. Please add your own ideas.

To help foster local industries the Legislature should consider imposing a tax barrier against items we can produce or grow in the CNMI. By doing this it will protect our industries and stimulate new local industries. This tax barrier will stimulate our citizens to begin growing and making our own products. All countries do this to protect their growing industries.

For example, we are growing many different kinds of vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and others. We are also able to grow our own fruit such as papaya, bananas, lemons, and more. In addition we are capable of manufacturing our own furniture and other items. Until we become strong we must protect our fledgling industries. I know this is protectionism, but is necessary for a while until we grow stronger.

Some of the benefits of a tax barrier are that it will stimulate the local economy by motivating citizens to grow and produce much of what we use daily. The barriers will also help reduce the amount of money that is exported to buy the items. By producing the items here we keep the money here to circulate in the community. One of the major problems we have is that we export most of the money earned here. As a result little is left to circulate for our needs.

We must revitalize our tourist industry. For several years our tourist industry has been shrinking instead of growing. Basically we blame the airlines and other outside factors. But have we really explored what we are doing internally to promote goodwill with the tourists who visit us? For every action there is a reaction. What are our actions that we are doing that we get negative reactions?

What are we doing to make the CNMI a truly memorable vacation spot? Are we friendly to the tourists? Do we greet them when we meet them? Are the scenic areas really clean and safe to visit? What interesting attractions do we have for the tourists to enjoy? How are we reaching out? Are we studying what successful tourist spots are doing to attract and keep their tourists? We must make our islands attractive enough so that the airlines will find them profitable enough to bring tourists here. We must work hard with no excuses allowed.

Is anybody doing a bed and breakfast business? This is when private families open their homes to visitors. Of course, the guests pay for lodging and food. That is why it is called bed and breakfast. Many resort areas do a great business like this. The tourist gets to live in a local home and meet some wonderful people. We get to meet some wonderful people at the same time. The experience becomes personal.

We have a potential market of about 1.5 billions people within a less than a five-hour trip. Yet we fail to entice them to visit us. If

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



we could convince only .001 percent of them it would mean about 1,500,000 tourists annually. Think about it! Can we work smarter?

We must find products that we can grow here that can be profitably marketed. Just to mention one—mushrooms. Mushrooms are an item that would grow well here because the climate is perfect. Consider the price of mushrooms—average price is \$10 to \$11 per pound. There are other items we can grow if we truly want to and are motivated to do so.

A gentleman we should talk to is Dr. Kim at NMC CRESS. He is a food specialists and can show us how to make value added products that we can market locally.

We must find a solution to solve the high shipping costs we are experiencing. The airlines and shipping companies are strangling us by their high prices. For example, to ship a pound of something to Hong Kong from Hawaii costs \$1.50. But to ship the same item at one pound weight to Hong Kong from Saipan, the cost is \$3.50! Why is that? Can anyone explain? Aren't we much closer to Hong Kong than Hawaii? This is a major problem that must be solved.

Being an English speaking country, we can encourage more educational investments such as language schools. The ones here currently are doing a great job. More schools should be opened. Education can be big business.

The sooner we replace our foreign laborers with local ones, the stronger we will become. Not only is a lot of money exported to their home country, but our own people have no jobs. We must become skilled and trained to do all the work that is needed in the community. These are only a few suggestions. There are many more and I am sure you have several of your own. But what is the problem? Us!!!

There are many things we can do to help ourselves. You have great ideas. Your friends have great ideas. But what is the problem that we don't act on them? Frankly and candidly speaking, the problem is us! We have so little faith in ourselves. We keep insisting that we need more outside investors. We need more government aid.

When are we going to wake up and do something for ourselves? There is much money available from the U.S. government from grants and straight loans. But we are afraid to take the risk. We keep seeking investors to come in and bring their money. As long as we keep doing this we will always be on the outside looking in.

We have as much brains as others do. We have been educated. We have access to money. Why can't we invest in our own land

See SEVERAL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A 'day on' today

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



With the virtue of "time is money" hammered into our kukute (brain) early, we learned to be on top of time rather than have time be on top of us, sometime back in time.

By 1972, we divided our day into two: Day One was 5am to 5pm, and the rest was Day Two. We then divided the week into Week 1, Monday sunrise to Thursday sundown, and Week 2, Thursday dusk to Monday dawn. As a planning framework, we divided the year into quarters (strategies and tactics), and curriculum into 26-week semesters. A rite of accountability was done annually, rehearsing our faithfulness and unfaithfulness to our decisions, surrender the year to history and freely create a new track for the next.

Thus, we find the shift from a "day off" to a "day on" during MLK day right down our alley. Lawyer Joe Hill and Civil Rights' coalition colleagues organized today's annual program to commemorate Dr. King's Day at the AMP Visitor's Center, with Mississippi-born Jesse Pennington, former Micronesian Legal Services Officer in Palau, as guest speaker. Atty. Hill knows he has a long way to go before pulling down the sunset blinds on the African-American struggle for equality, but as a practicing lawyer in the CNMI, he is

lucid that the brunt of civil rights' abuses on island have shifted on the foreign contract worker, and the skin contest is brown on yellow, and vice-versa.

In February 1966, our Kentucky urban sociology class drove to Chicago to ride with police cars on a Friday night, an arrangement our teacher made with a former student who was the police commissioner. We were to be exposed to the reality of the inner city as well as see what good folks were doing in response to the challenges of urbanization that was the gift and curse of the Secular City of theologian Harvey Cox.

Riding at night on the back of a police cruiser in Chicago was worth 10 times more than book learning. Life in the raw was on display. Other than the soup kitchens, bed/board charity offering for the homeless and the down-and-out in skid row, we were briefed on three serious attempts.

There was Dr. King's effort with his Chicago Freedom Movement to open up segregated public housing, resulting in a Summit Agreement that proved to be more a Richard Daley pacifying carrot. Jesse Jackson who worked with Dr. King in Alabama, was at Chicago Theology School, and dealt with SCLC's selective buying and coercive boycott program Operation Breadbasket. The Black Panthers and Black Power rendered his endeavors almost coquettish.

Another effort supported by churches groping for radical change was Saul Alinsky's community organizing, honing his in-your-face confrontational style for tenants to demand their rights before public offices, earning him Mayor Daley's ire. He established the Woodlawn Organization and influenced the community organizing methods of Barack Hussein Obama. Saul's parents were Russian Jews so he was dubbed a Commie, a charge that rubbed off Obama in his presidential campaign.

We visited a predominantly Caucasian community reformulation effort of the Ecumenical Institute (EI) on the westside. This was not a 'do-good-ing' effort of suburban whites foraging into the

slums in the comfort of their segregated neighborhoods. The group moved their families into the area and lived the communal struggles of rural southern blacks, at the time, replacing industrial European whites in exodus to the suburbs. They were revolutionary in intent and method, in a cathartic and catalytic way. (Time, 03.17.67 issue, Church: Laboratory for the Future.)

Joseph Matthews, the group's first-among equals, ex-Tarawa WWII chaplain who was not about saving life but in giving it meaningfully away, turned up to be an irreverent alumnus of my Kentucky home, and a former Professor at my Dallas, Texas school. A replication of the Chicago effort caught up with me six years later in my Manila slum neighborhood, and serendipitously, on the eve of Ferdinand Marcos' Martial Law declaration in 1972, I hitched my shoe to the EI star. My "day off" had become a "day on" ever since.

Almost 40 years later, and traversing seven continents as a monastic mendicant, this November I shared what I knew on intuitive and development economics to foreign students from Africa, Sub-Asia and English learners in Manchuria, using a Social Process screen that came out of our EI work. It has been a long "day on."

In our journey, we honored the wisdom of a Gandhi, the Hindu Brahmin solicitor kicked off a train in Transvaal, listened echoes of a southern Baptist preacher MLK engage our consensus on war and poverty through a dream, supported an ANC Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) warrior Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and followed midwest itinerant Methodist revivalist Joseph Matthews who focused his talents in gathering Those Who Care (TWC) create a new social vehicle, a new religious mode, and a new profound humanness in the nitty-gritty landscape of global existence.

The glocal landscape of Saipan is littered with tears from the huff and gruff of dog-eat-dog consumer economy. Those who care continue to deal with labor and immigration issues. We'll surely have a "day on" today!

Selective wussification

By **KEVIN HARRIGAN**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Harrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. E-mail: kharrigan@post-dispatch.com.



For eight years, Ed Rendell was governor of Pennsylvania. The eight years before that, he was mayor of Philadelphia. In all that time, he never got the national attention he's received in his last two weeks as governor, since unburdening himself about what he called "the wussification of America."

He was upset that the NFL postponed the Dec. 26 game between his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and the visiting Minnesota Vikings because of a forecast for 12 inches of snow. The game was played two evenings later. Making things worse for Rendell, the Eagles lost.

"My biggest beef is that this is part of what's happened in this country," Rendell said in a radio interview in Philly. "I think we've become wussies. ... We've become a nation of wusses. The Chinese are kicking our butt in everything. If this was in China do you think

the Chinese would have called off the game? People would have been marching down to the stadium, they would have walked and they would have been doing calculus on the way down."

Rendell, a liberal Democrat, even touched a chord with Rush Limbaugh, who returned to his radio show last week after a vacation in Hawaii. Rush raised Rendell's "wussification of America" to "chickification of the culture," and talked about how the Donner Party didn't complain about the weather even when they were trapped by snow in the High Sierras and wound up eating each other.

Reading Rendell and Limbaugh's remarks called to mind Monty Python's "Four Yorkshiremen" skit, where four guys are trying to out-do each other on how hard they had it as kids.

"I was happier then and I had nothin'. We used to live in this tiny old house with great big holes in the roof."

"House! You were lucky to live in a house! We used to live in one room, all 26 of us, no furniture, 'alf the floor was missing, and we were all 'uddled together in one corner for fear of falling."

"Eh, you were lucky to have a room! We used to have to live in t' corridor!"

"Oh, we used to dream of livin' in a corridor! Would ha' been a palace to us. We used to live in an old water tank on a rubbish tip. We got woke up every morning by having a load of rotting fish dumped all over us! House? Huh."

Wussiness usually is selective. Someone who schleps through the snow to his end-zone seat might assign wussie points to a governor who gets delivered to the stadium in a four-wheel drive SUV driven by a state trooper, or a radio host on vacation in Hawaii who was disappointed that the television didn't show him a football game played in a foot of snow before he returned to his home in Florida.

Some things, however, are objectively wussie. Here I'm thinking of those plastic-wrapped packages of firewood that they sell out-

side of convenience stores for five bucks. "All-night fire," the label reads, and there are like six small sticks of wood.

You'd better hope your central heat works, wuss. Get a chainsaw and an ax, or scrounge some tree limbs up around the neighborhood. You think the Donner Party bought firewood at a convenience store?

Also objectively wussie: Situational relief pitchers, T-shirt slingshots and quarterbacks who complete three-fourths of their passes for 10 yards or less. Man up and throw the ball downfield. Odds are your receivers won't catch it anyway.

Also, not that I'm thinking of anyone in particular, people who win a \$5 bet with a colleague on a U.S. Senate race and run down the street to a buy a latte with it. You think the Donner Party drank lattes?

Also for wusses: cell phones and GPS navigation systems. America was built by pioneers who used phones with cords that got tangled and maps that got ripped, and they didn't care! Pioneers could untangle cords and use Scotch tape.

And don't forget automatic transmissions. Real men drive stick, and, in the summertime we don't use the air conditioning because (a) it doesn't work and (b) women like the way we smell when we're all sweaty. Come to think of it, real men ride horses. Cars are for wusses.

Also, I'm thinking this whole Internet thing might be for wusses, too. Did the Greatest Generation have the Internet? No, if they needed to know, say, the year Ed Rendell was elected governor of Pennsylvania, they looked it up in a big, heavy reference book that it took a real man to lift, plus—if they'd used up all their ammo—they could kill a Nazi by hitting him over the head with it.

To quote Monty Python: You try to tell the young people today that, and they won't believe you.

SEVERAL

From Page 10

and develop ourselves what we are asking others to do? We have so many human resources and physical assets that we can rebuild our economy and own them at the same time. Why? Why can't we take the risks?

I really am frustrated and tired of our inability to attempt doing it ourselves. Allow me a quote from a poet: "'tis better to have loved and lost than not to have loved." I rewrite it to read: "'tis better to have failed than not to have tried."

I realize that the CNMI was dominated for years by foreign powers and later influenced by the United States. This was mainly political power. Now that we have basic freedom and self-government, we are falling into another trap—economic dominance by outside investors. This is as bad as political domination.

Let us realize that we are capable as any other nation to become prosperous. We have natural assets and we have intelligent citizens. All we need is the drive and determination to control our own destiny. The time is ripe. The time is now!

Forgive my repetition on the same subject. We are a member of the world community. Unless we start to become risk takers and assume some of the responsibility for helping ourselves, we are doomed to perpetual dependency on outsiders. There is no rationalization for excusing our current status quo. It is our choice!

Letter to the Editor

Don't blame the feds

This is regarding the actions of the feds as far as the Consolidated Natural Resources Act is benefiting the entire CNMI.

Regardless of the present and future leadership expected by the feds, the CNMI's future will all depend on how the indigenous people elect credible leaders, as well as the smooth phasing out of the guest worker program. If we can just count all forms of feds' assistance to the economic growth of the CNMI—I am sure most Chamorros and Carolinians will agree with me—that the island economy will be blessed with a recovery without having to rely on the guest worker program.

Since 1978 the CNRA had been in full effect starting with the influx of GW from mostly Southeast Asian countries. Mr. Pellegrino is right. The CNMI can be prepared even long before the phasing out of the GW program. We just have to stop politicking by curtailing the blames from the past and present administrations, including the alleged inactions by the feds.

What is important is that the representation of the CNMI in the U.S. Congress—is not putting the political relationship of both parties in jeopardy. Human rights problems are being served. Tourism is patronized by the mainlanders, as well as the rest of the Micronesia, Japan, Korea, Russia, China, and other Asian countries. We ought to believe in self-reliance programs of the NMTI to enhance future economic growth, rather than depending too much from the GW program, as well as from the monetary blessings from Uncle Sam.

And finally all of us should be grateful to Our Divine Providence for the U.S. government to assist the CNMI recovery from past atrocities and resentment among leaders, constituents and guest workers in order to convince more and more investors to provide fiscal revenues to the fragile island economy, and employment especially to the local workforce.

Remember gratitude is next to Godliness. Long live the much needed unity and harmony in the CNMI by forgetting less credible leadership, failed political agendas, and unfounded judgment to the inactions of the feds!

Pete de los Santos

Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds around 10 mph.

▲86° ▼77°

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds around 10 mph.

▲86° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia			
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲76	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲29	▼12
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲64	▼43
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲82	▼71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼58
Miami	Thundershowers	▲77	▼64
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲31	▼28
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼34
Paris	Showers	▲51	▼41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼46
Salem	Showers	▲52	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲26	▼13
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼35
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲38	▼35

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
4:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends west-southwestward from 19N180 to end near 15N147E. Cloudiness and patchy rain exist along and up to 300 miles north of this boundary east of 163E. This area includes Wake Island. A cold front well northwest of the Marianas extends southwestward from 25N141E to beyond 130E at 18N. Scattered showers are found northwest of this feature. A surface trough extends eastward from a circulation west of 130E from 17N130E to 17N138E. Showers are found west of the Marianas within 140 miles of a line from 14N140E to 20N137E. Another surface trough stretches northwestward from 7N142E across Yap to 12N136E. Scattered showers are found within an area bounded by a line from 13N138E to 9N131E to 5N138E to 8N142E back to 13N138E. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward from south of Chuuk at 3N152E across Pohnpei to north of Kwajalein at 13N172E. Scattered showers are found within 120 miles of the trough axis.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Today	3:29 PM	3:58 AM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Tuesday	4:30 PM	4:55 AM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Wednesday	5:32 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Thursday	6:34 PM	6:44 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM	Friday	7:35 PM	7:34 AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

Cub Scout Pack 913 holds Pinewood Derby

Cub Scout Pack 913 held its seventh Pinewood Derby last Dec. 15 with the youngest member of the pack, Cyrus Rose, racing to victory with his car, ironically named the Banana Slug.

Eight-year-old Rose said features such as designing his car to look like "a door stop wedge, except a lot prettier," were key to building a successful race car.

"I chose the color yellow and I thought it would be fast," he said. Upon learning that he was the derby champion, Rose said, "I felt blood rushing through

me. I felt really good."

He said his dad, Will Rosenburgh, helped build the car.

The derby included 10 cars made by Scouts, 8 years old to 10 years old, said Cub Scout Pack 913 master Christina Smith.

Finishing second to Rose were Logn Mister and Arthur Sondheim.

"They're very enthusiastic Cubs. Besides learning to be a good craftsman, the boys also learn sportsmanship, while having fun," said Smith.

Rose echoed this thought by saying, "We have a lot of fun in the Cub Scout Pack 913. The Pinewood Derby competition was a lot of fun and you don't have to win for it to be good."

Smith added that each Scout's car raced six times with the top three racers competing a final three times against each other.

Each participant received an official Boy Scouts of America Grand Prix Pinewood Derby kit and had to follow BSA rules—which included specifications for height, weight, and width—

to build their car, she said.

The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and successful family activities in Cub Scouting. Pinewood Derby cars are small wooden models that Cub Scouts make with help

from their families. Then they race the cars in competition. The cars are powered by gravity and run down a track.

Cub Scout Pack 913, which is chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,

holds weekly Den meetings and four Pack meetings a year which showcase recognized Cub Scout events such as the Raingutter Regatta, the Pinewood Derby, the Father/Son Cakebake, and Cubmobile Races. (PR)

Emergency beacon in North Pacific prompts international response

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard is responding to an emergency distress beacon activated aboard a Taipei fishing vessel in the North Pacific Friday.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu received a signal from a 406 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon at 4am Friday registered to the *Ming Horng Yu 123*, an 85-foot Taiwanese flagged fishing vessel.

The signal identified the position of the vessel as 1,500 miles northwest of Oahu. The Coast Guard was unable to contact the vessel, but con-

firmed with the vessel owner there are 11 people aboard.

Watchstanders relayed a call for assistance to vessels in the area though the use of SAFETYNET, a satellite based communication system which provides critical information to vessels. The crew of the Japanese vessel *Amorita*, a 623-foot cargo carrier, diverted their course to offer assistance. It is estimated they will reach the search area about 5 a.m. Saturday. The *Amorita* is responding to the call for help under the Automated Mutual-Assistance vessel Rescue Program.

A Coast Guard C-130 Her-

cules aircrew launched from Air Station Barbers Point Friday morning to locate and identify if the vessel is in distress. The Hercules is equipped with life rafts and survival equipment which can be dropped to survivors in the water if needed. The aircrew should reach the ships position by 4 p.m. The position transmitted by the beacon was 30-38.7 N 174-40.8 E.

Weather conditions are seas of 37 feet and 39 mph winds, gusting to 49.

More information on the AMVER program can be found at www.AMVER.com. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cyrus Rose, right, won Cub Scout Pack 913's seventh Pinewood Derby held last Dec. 15. Also in photo are second place Logan Mister, left, and Arthur Sondheim.

Pro-democracy leader quits Tonga cabinet post

» Pohiva unhappy with conditions, outside appointments

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Taimi Media Network)—A week and a day into the job, Tonga's Health Minister 'Akilisi Pohiva has tendered his resignation from Cabinet.

Copies of the resignation letter were circulated amongst members of Parliament this morning.

There is no official response on the issue from the Prime Minister who appointed him.

"We can only confirm things tomorrow [Friday 14th January]. There was a document distributed today but I have not had the chance to see it or confirm what it's about," Prime Minister Lord Tu'iavakano told media immediately after the opening ceremony today.

Pohiva also declined to make an official statement until tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Taimi Media Network has received a copy of the resignation letter signed by 'Akilisi Pohiva.

The letter opposed two main issues: firstly, the appointment of two Cabinet ministers from outside the legislature, "even though there are Representatives qualified enough for those positions". According to the document, Pohiva recommended that these two ministers resign, "as difficult as it may be", but this proposal was rejected.

The second point of discontent was the alleged "agreement" (aleapau) that Cabinet

ministers had to sign before being sworn in. The letter claimed Pohiva was given until 9 a.m. today to respond, before Parliament's opening ceremony, which he refused to do.

"Because of those two reasons, I wish to submit my resignation. I ask that you relay my resignation to His Majesty," the letter stated.

Cabinet ministers, People's Representatives and Nobles' Representatives were scheduled to take their oaths of office today. Oath statements were distributed to Members of Parliament at the opening ceremony. But the last minute, the swearing-in was delayed until Friday, Jan. 14.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MRCDC sets executive board meeting

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold an executive board meeting/teleconference on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 20, from 5pm to 6pm. The public is invited. For island-specific location information or special accommodation for disability call (671) 472-7447. (PR)

Marpi closure for ordnance detonation

An ordnance disposal team from Guam will be on Saipan next Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, to blow up unexploded ordnances at 1pm.

To ensure the safety of the public, the Department of Public Safety will close off the entire Marpi area from the Last Command Post to the Bird Island lookout for the duration of this activity—from about 12pm to 2pm.

The only place that will remain open during the operation is the Suicide Cliff area for observation only. Access will be allowed through the Far East Broadcasting road and the road behind the Marianas Country Club Golf Course. For more information, contact the department at 664-9001 or 664-9022. (DPS)

Kagman High sets PTSA meeting

The first PTSA meeting of

Kagman High School for 2011 is set to begin at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the cafeteria. Parents, guardians, students and school staff are encouraged to attend. Write to AniciaQT@gmail.com if you have any questions. (PR)

WIC Program training schedule

The CNMI WIC Program will be closed on the following dates for Professional Development Training.

- Jan. 21, 2011-7:30am-10:30am
- Jan. 28, 2011-7:30am-10:30am
- Feb. 4, 2011-7:30am-10:30am

Hours of operation will resume at 10:30am. Call the Clinic at 664-4084 or the Administration Office at 664-4067 for further inquiries. (PR)

Art of Marriage Conference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay

the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or e-mail onlyjill@yahoo.com. For more information you can visit www.family-life.com/theartofmarriage. (PR)

PH Consulate to offer Saturday, Sunday services in 2011

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan plans to continue its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services, with an additional plan of alternating Saturday services for 2011.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said this is due to the number of Filipinos in the CNMI who have availed of these weekend consular services.

The Philippine Consulate General will have the following weekend schedule for the first six months of 2011:

- Jan. 30, Sunday
- Feb. 26, Saturday
- March 20, Sunday
- April 16, Saturday
- May 22, Sunday
- June 25, Saturday

The office will be open to provide consular services and it will observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm without lunch breaks.

For inquiries on any consular service, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipan-pcg@pticom.com. (PR)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very happy birthday to Cypriano K. Berki. May you have all the joy and happiness on your special day. Know that we love you dearly and are grateful to have you in our lives. Cheers to another wonderful year! Love from all your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY

Rohan Gabriel de Jesus celebrated his first birthday last Jan. 8 at Saipan Grand Hotel. Baby Gabriel is seen here being carried by Papa Romy. Also in photo are, from left, Kuya Nathan, Mama Menchu, and Ate Maegan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Toyota: Rising yen could force production shifts



Visitors watch a Lexus CT200h during a press event in Tokyo as Toyota Motor Corp. released the new hybrid compact car in the domestic market Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota's president acknowledged that shifting production abroad may be inevitable to ward off damage from a rising yen, a reversal of course for the Japanese automaker.

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda made the comments in a New Year's message posted Friday on the company's website. He promised to outline in April his plan to revamp management and regain trust after the global massive recalls that battered Toyota's once pristine image for quality.

Under the new strategy, it may also become necessary to move production to eke out

profit amid currency rate fluctuations, he said, while noting that such decisions will be made carefully.

"But if profits cannot be achieved, then we have no choice but to realistically consider the option of shifting production," Toyoda said.

Toyota, the world's biggest automaker, has been more aggressive than Japanese rivals Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co. to keep production in Japan. It controls a bigger share of the domestic market and also exports more vehicles out of Japan.

The dollar's plunge—it currently trades at about 83 yen—

has chipped away at the value of the overseas earnings of Japanese exporters such as Toyota.

Toyota is still reeling from the sudden-acceleration recalls in late 2009 and last year that resulted in the manufacturer recalling more than 11 million vehicles worldwide to fix sticky acceleration pedals, faulty floor mats, software glitches and other problems.

Toyota was the only major automaker to sell fewer trucks and cars in the U.S. last year compared to the previous year.

Toyoda, the grandson of the automaker's founder, said his new strategy will include ways

to reflect the needs of regions outside Japan to work as a global company.

"I have said repeatedly that Toyota in Japan should not be controlling the various regions," he said. "Of course, Toyota is a multinational company, but we want to be the best company in town in each and every region."

During the recall crisis, Toyota was criticized as being slow in responding, and Toyota officials have acknowledged that better communication among

its global operations is crucial.

In December, Toyota agreed to pay \$32.4 million in fines to the U.S. government to settle the investigation into its handling of two recalls. The latest settlement was on top of the \$16.4 million fine Toyota paid earlier.

Earlier this month, Toyota announced it was setting up a safety research center in Michigan. It is also trying to give its U.S. offices a more direct role in safety related decisions.

Time Warner Cable-Sinclair deal avoids TV blackout

NEW YORK (AP)—After weeks in limbo, about 4 million of Time Warner Cable's customers will no longer have to worry about losing one of their network TV stations.

Just hours before a midnight deadline, the company announced Saturday it has reached a deal in principle with Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. over the fees it pays to carry Sinclair broadcast signals, including those from local affiliates of Fox, ABC and CBS.

Time Warner said it expects to complete a final deal within seven days.

Without a deal, Time Warner would have had to drop Sinclair's stations from its channel lineups, though subscribers might not have noticed the difference. Time Warner says it would have replaced signals from Sinclair with feeds from nearby stations in other cities.

Viewers would still have seen football games and shows such as "Glee" and "Desperate Housewives." But the local news would have come from an out-of-town station.

The two sides had extended the agreement for two weeks before the initial expiration on New Year's Day. On Friday, they announced a 24-hour extension to midnight Saturday.

Time Warner declined to comment further on the negotiations. Sinclair could not be reached for comment.

GM expands recall of some 2011 trucks and SUVs

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors is expanding an earlier recall of some 2011 model-year trucks and SUVs to fix a problem that could cause the vehicles' rear axles to lock.

The recall, originally announced in December, now covers 26,751 Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC trucks and SUVs. The models affected are: Cadillac Escalade, Escalade ESV, Cadillac EXT, Chevrolet Avalanche, Colorado, Silverado, Suburban, Tahoe; and GMC Canyon, Si-

erra, Yukon and Yukon XL.

GM said rear-axle cross pins, used to hold the axle in place, weren't properly heat-treated and may not be durable. They can fracture, interfere with the axle and cause it to lock. The driver could then lose control of the vehicle.

One customer has reported a loss of power to the axle, GM says. But no crashes have been reported.

GM says owners of the vehicles are being contacted and urged against driving the

trucks until the axle pin is replaced.

The December recall for this same issue covered 1,262 trucks and SUVs. But the company has since discovered that more vehicles were built with the faulty axle pin. In addition, the earlier recall didn't include the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon midsize trucks.

A GM spokesman said Saturday that the company is confident all the faulty parts have now been discovered.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Germany bans 934 more farms in dioxin scare

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's dioxin-tainted food scandal widened Saturday, as authorities banned another 934 farms from selling eggs, poultry and pork after finding out that one company had hidden its deliveries of contaminated livestock feed. Prosecutors in Lower Saxony state have opened an investigation after finding out about the tainted feed deliveries to those farms, Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner said. "This is a scandal within the scandal," she said.

Blue Shield of Calif. to proceed with rate hikes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Blue Shield of California said Friday it was planning to go forward with scheduled health insurance rate increases for individual policyholders, despite calls from government regulators to delay the

move. The San Francisco-based insurer said that it has asked an independent actuary to review the increases and would issue refunds if problems were found with the rates. California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones had asked Blue Shield to delay planned increases on March 1 so his department could conduct a full review.

Swiss central bank loses \$22 billion in 2010

GENEVA (AP)—Switzerland's central bank says it has lost 21 billion Swiss francs (\$22 billion) in 2010 as the currency, considered by investors as a safe haven, rose strongly against the dollar and the euro. The Swiss National Bank, which has repeatedly intervened to halt the Swiss franc from further rising against the euro, said losses stemming from its foreign currency dealings totaled 26 billion francs—a record loss only partly offset by the gains on its gold reserves.

Nation

Paramedics describe hellish Ariz. shooting scene

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Veteran paramedic Tony Compagno stepped off Engine 30 and into hell: Panicked people rushed his crew, trying to pull them toward the injured, while three men desperately gave chest compressions to a 9-year-old girl.

Others cried out “Giffords! Giffords!” and pointed to a woman lying unconscious with a gunshot wound to the head. Several other bodies were already covered with sheets.

Compagno and other paramedics on the first three engine trucks to respond to the mass shooting at Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ Jan. 8 meet-and-greet event recounted Saturday the scene that unfolded a week earlier as they rushed to count and triage the victims.

At the same time, the Safeway where the shooting happened reopened and a memorial of flowers quickly grew outside.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Doctors on Saturday removed Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ breathing tube and could soon know if she can speak.

Giffords had an operation Saturday to replace the breathing tube with a tracheotomy tube in her windpipe. That allows her to breathe better and



First responders from Northwest Fire District Engine 30 paramedic Tony Compagno, left, who was first on the scene to care for gunshot victim Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., gets applause and fist pumps from fellow firefighters including engineer Kyle Canty, right, and Capt. Roger Moore, at a Northwest Fire District station Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, in Tucson, Ariz.

frees her from the ventilator.

Though Giffords had been breathing on her own since she was shot in the head Jan. 8, doctors had left the breathing tube in as a precaution. A feeding tube was also put in to provide nutrition. Those procedures are not out of the ordinary for brain-injured patients.

Giffords’ doctors have said they should be able to evaluate her ability to speak once the breathing tube is out.

Randy Larson, 57, came by to shop but instead found himself sitting quietly on the curb choking back tears.

“I wanted to come here now

and see it now and not two weeks later when it’s just a grocery store. I honestly kind of thought, ‘Well, I’ll come and patronize them and shop’ but it’s really hard to, because by doing that it’s going about your day as usual,” said Larson, who runs a sandwich shop in the same shopping center.

“I can’t come here and go

about my day as usual,” he said. “Why should it be usual for me when it’s not for the victims?”

Still listed in critical conditions, Giffords was reported as continuing to progress Saturday, with doctors replacing the breathing tube that connected her to a ventilator with a tracheotomy tube in her windpipe. They could soon know if she can speak, but they didn’t offer a timeframe. Doctors also installed a feeding tube.

Elsewhere in town, an organization called Crossroads of the West held a gun show, one of many it hosts in several Western

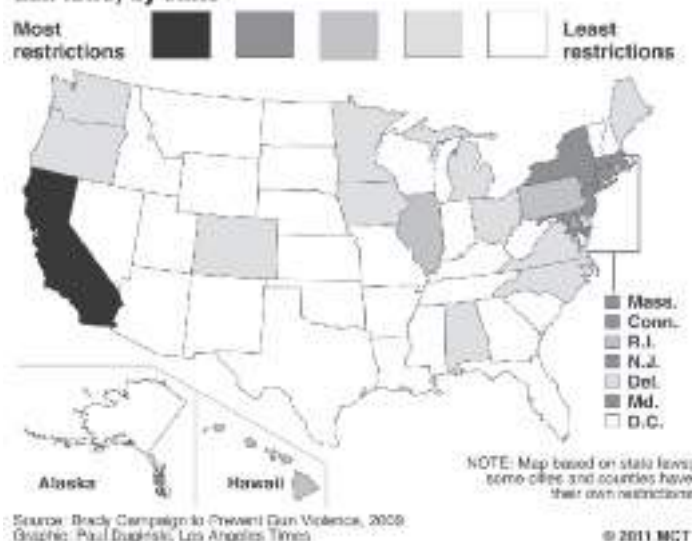
states. An estimated crowd of 4,000 showed up on the balmy Saturday, though the mood was less upbeat than past shows, organizer Bob Templeton said. Gun enthusiasts mingled in the county fairgrounds building, discussing Second Amendment rights and buying handguns, rifles and other weapons.

The group considered canceling the event, but decided Tuesday it would go on, said Templeton, adding that the shooting was not about gun rights, but rather “a deranged person who was able to carry out whatever his agenda was.”

Regulating guns

A ranking of state restrictions on gun trafficking, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, lists California as the state with the strongest laws. Arizona is among the least restrictive.

Gun laws, by state



Record \$14 trillion-plus debt weighs on Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States just passed a dubious milestone: Government debt surged to an all-time high, topping \$14 trillion—\$45,300 for each and everyone in the country.

That means Congress soon will have to lift the legal debt limit to give the nearly maxed-out government an even higher credit limit or dramatically cut spending to stay within the current cap. Either way, a fight is ahead on Capitol Hill, inflamed by the passions of tea party activists and deficit hawks.

Already, both sides are blaming each other for an approach-

ing economic train wreck as Washington wrestles over how to keep the government in business and avoid default on global financial obligations.

Bills increasing the debt limit are among the most unpopular to come before Congress, serving as pawns for decades in high-stakes bargaining games. Every time until now, the ending has been the same: We go to the brink before raising the ceiling.

All bets may be off, however, in this charged political environment, despite some signs the partisan rhetoric is softening af-

ter the Arizona shootings.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says failure to increase borrowing authority would be “a catastrophe,” perhaps rivaling the financial meltdown of 2008-2009.

Congressional Republicans, flexing muscle after November’s victories, say the election results show that people are weary of big government and deficit spending, and that it’s time to draw the line against more borrowing.

Defeating a new debt limit increase has become a priority for the tea party movement

and other small-government conservatives.

So far, the new GOP majority has proved accommodating. Republicans are moving to make good on their promise to cut \$100 billion from domestic spending this year. They adopted a rules change by House Speaker John Boehner that should make it easier to block a debt-limit increase.

The national debt is the accumulation of years of deficit spending going back to the days of George Washington. The debt usually advances in times of war and retreats in peace.

MLK III: AZ shootings underscore father’s message

ATLANTA (AP)—The son of Martin Luther King Jr. said Saturday that the recent shootings in Arizona that killed six and left a congresswoman critically wounded show the work of his father must continue.

Martin Luther King III spoke Saturday at a dinner where the King Center honored the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy for his work on civil rights. A posthumous award was presented to the senator’s widow, Vicki Kennedy. The senator died in 2009 at age 77 following a battle with brain cancer.

Although the dinner was a celebration, King’s children and

sister were mindful of the Jan. 8 assassination attempt on Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who is recovering from a gunshot wound to the head suffered at an outdoor gathering.

King’s son said the shootings underscore his father’s message of nonviolence.

“Ugliness rears its head,” said Martin Luther King III, who was a boy when his father was slain in Memphis, Tenn. in April, 1968. “And that tragic incident in a real sense should say to us all that the work of Martin Luther King Jr. is nowhere near finished because he tried to teach us how to live in a nation and world without destroying

either person or property.”

“And so the message of non-violence resonates strongly, particularly this year after that great tragedy,” King said.

Both the Kennedy and King families have been touched by political violence. President John Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, and King and Sen. Robert Kennedy were slain months apart in 1968.

“We have always felt that we shared a sense of destiny,” said Andrew Young, a former Atlanta mayor who marched alongside King, speaking of the ties between King’s movement and the Kennedys.

If they shared a destiny, it was

not always as allies. Civil rights leaders were frustrated that the Kennedy administration did not move faster on the issue, and as attorney general, Robert Kennedy authorized the wiretapping of King.

Congress passed landmark civil rights legislation following President Kennedy’s assassination, and both Robert Kennedy and King championed liberal causes over the next four years. After King himself was killed on April 4, 1968, Robert Kennedy, campaigning for president in Indianapolis, broke the news to a mostly black crowd. He quoted the Greek tragedian Aeschylus.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Idaho triple-murder suspect still in Mexico

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—The extradition from Mexico of a man accused of killing his girlfriend and her two young sons, then burning their bodies in the southern Idaho desert, could take as long as three years, authorities said. The FBI listed Jorge Orozco as one of its most-wanted fugitives in 2002 after fishermen found the abandoned, burned-out shell of the car that Orozco had been driving near the Snake River in a remote area of Idaho’s Elmore County. The charred remains of Rebecca Ramirez and her sons, ages 2 and 4, were found inside. Investigators later determined they were shot in the head or chest.

2 African blackfooted penguins hatched at aquarium

MONTEREY, Calif. (AP)—Staff members at the Monterey Bay Aquarium are excited about two penguins that hatched at the California aquarium over the past week. Officials say after an African blackfooted penguin chick hatched last Saturday, a second one hatched Tuesday. Aquarium spokeswoman

Karen Jeffries says both chicks are “doing well.” Still, because the mortality rate is high among young penguins, aquarium staff will be keeping a close eye on the chicks with a “nest cam” and video monitor.

More than 80 skiers rescued after Ohio lift stalls

CHESTERLAND, Ohio (AP)—A ski lift stalled Saturday at a northeast Ohio resort, leaving more than 80 people stuck for several hours until emergency crews used ropes and a pulley to lower them to safety, authorities said. No injuries were reported. The ski lift at Alpine Valley in Munson Township malfunctioned at about 2:30 p.m., leaving the skiers and snowboarders dangling about 30 feet from the ground, said Chief Scott Hildenbrand of the Hamden Fire Department, one of the agencies that responded. Crews threw blankets and hand warmers to the skiers so they would stay warm until they were rescued, which Hildenbrand said took about three hours. Medics checked the skiers after they were on the ground; none needed to go to the hospital, Hildenbrand said.

Asia

Australia focuses on flood cleanup

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Some Australian communities remained isolated by floodwaters and others braced for a new river peak Sunday as the nation's third-largest city struggled to clean up the putrid sludge left behind by the receding Brisbane River.

More than 12,000 rubber-gloved volunteers hauled sodden debris from soaked homes, shoveled muck and swept and mopped muddy floors in some of the 30,000 homes and businesses that were flooded in Brisbane.

Officials have said the complete cleanup of the Queensland state capital would take months, and reconstruction up to two years.

The floods have caused 27 deaths in Australia's northeast since late November, and 14 other people are missing, most of them from a flash flood that hit towns west of Brisbane on Monday.

In Grantham, described as the epicenter of the flash flood, 70 percent of the town remained cordoned off Sunday while searchers looked for the bodies of the missing.

"People I hope will understand the pressure that the police are working under in these sorts of circumstances and be patient," Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh said. "They are working as hard as they can to be in a position to allow people back into Grantham as quickly as possible."

The wall of water that swept through the town left behind dozens of smashed cars wedged in trees or bogged in fields, houses slipped off their foundations and masses of muddled belongings piled up as debris in the streets.

The engorged rivers that flooded Queensland towns have now swelled south into other states. In New South Wales, nearly 7,000 people have been

isolated by floodwaters that overflowed highways and emergency services helicopters air-dropped food and other supplies to residents.

In northern Victoria, a dozen small communities were sandbagging amid fears of high-peaking rivers, and 3,000 people have evacuated.

An economist has estimated the Queensland floods' cost could be as much as \$13 billion, or 1 percent of gross domestic product in Australia's 1.3 trillion Australian dollar (\$1.29

trillion) economy.

Mining companies say they won't be able to meet contracts for coal, Australia's biggest export, while Queensland farmers' crop losses could push up world food prices.

Even more frightening for farmers is the Bureau of Meteorology's prediction that rain could last through March due to the cool conditions in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean associated with the current La Nina—a weather system known for producing heavy rains.

PH gov't, rebels meet in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Representatives of the Philippines government and communist rebels met in Norway's capital on Friday for informal talks on restarting peace negotiations, officials said.

The session Friday included a welcome ceremony and introductory remarks, and the actual discussions would begin Saturday, said Ture Lund, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official facilitating the talks. He declined to name the representatives, and said neither side would comment on the meeting until it's finished, on Jan. 18.

Talks between the two sides were suspended in 2004 when the rebels, who have fought for a Marxist state since 1969, withdrew from negotiations. They accused the government of instigating the inclusion of the Communist Party and its armed wing on U.S. and European lists of terrorist organizations.

In Manila, Philippine Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles said the meeting in Oslo has no preset agenda and the main aim is to lay down procedures for next month's formal talks.

She said the agenda for those talks in February will include socio-economic reforms as well as political and consti-

tution reforms, so discussions will be "more of how do we proceed so we don't have this long, drawn-out discussion on reforms that will not get us anywhere."

"We want to be able to discuss with them how we can do this the fastest way, so that we get to the final peace agreement that people are looking for," she told reporters.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda earlier said discussions will likely include the guerrillas' demand for the release of Tirso Alcantara, a rebel commander on the main island of Luzon. Alcantara, known also as Comrade Bart, was arrested just after the two sides ended a 19-day Christmas truce earlier this week.

The underground Communist Party has demanded the release of Alcantara "before the resumption of formal peace talks," saying he is one of the rebels' consultants in the negotiations.

Lacierda said the government panel will also likely raise the rebels' alleged use of land mines.

Norway describes its role since 2001 in the Philippines peace effort as a third-party host that facilitates discussions, rather than as a mediator in the dispute.

dependent probes.

Philippine leader's Porsche buy revs up criticism

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A third-hand used car isn't likely to raise eyebrows on Philippine streets—unless it's a Porsche just bought by President Benigno Aquino III. The 50-year-old president elected last year promising to fight corruption and poverty said he bought the 2007 car with his own money and sees nothing wrong. Some commentators worry it's sending the wrong message after he criticized the lifestyle of his predecessor. A third of Filipinos live on a dollar a day. Aquino's spokesman Edwin Lacierda said Aquino paid 4.5 million pesos (\$102,000) and

sold his BMW.

102 pilgrims killed in stampede at Indian festival

KOCHI, India (AP)—A stampede of pilgrims returning from one of India's most popular Hindu festivals killed at least 102 people and injured 44 others, officials said Saturday. The stampede was set off Friday night when a group of pilgrims in a jeep drove into a crowd of worshippers walking along a narrow forest path as they returned from offering prayers at the hilltop Sabarimala shrine in the state of Kerala in southern India, said local police official Sanjay Kumar. All the injured were hospitalized, some in serious condition, Kumar told The Associated Press.

World

Tunisia hit with looting as new president is sworn in

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Looting, deadly prison riots and street chaos engulfed Tunisia on Saturday, a day after mass protests forced its strongman to flee. A new interim president was sworn in, promising to create a unity government that could include the long-ignored opposition.

It was the second change of power in this North African nation in less than 24 hours.

Saturday night appeared calmer than the previous night, which saw looters empty shops and torch the capital's main train station as well as some shops. As military helicopters patrolled overhead, residents in some neighborhoods armed themselves with sticks and clubs, forming impromptu militias to protect their homes.

Saturday also saw soldiers trade fire with assailants in front of the Interior Ministry, while thousands of European tourists scrambled to find flights home.

The death toll mounted. At least 42 people were killed Saturday in a prison fire in one resort town and the director of another prison in another tourist haven let 1,000 inmates flee after soldiers shot five dead amid a rebellion.

Teenager: Berlusconi gave her EUR7,000 (\$9,350)

ROME (AP)—A teenager at the heart of the latest criminal probe of Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Saturday the billionaire media mogul gave her EUR7,000 (\$9,350) when she came to a Valentine's Day soiree at his villa but reiterated she didn't have sex with him.

Milan prosecutors were investigating whether Berlusconi paid for sex with an underage girl from Morocco and then abused his power in trying to cover up the encounters.

Berlusconi has criticized the probe, calling the allegations "incredible and grotesque."

The teenager, a nightclub dancer nicknamed Ruby, said in an interview on Sky TG24 TV that Berlusconi didn't



Tunisia

After a month of violent protests against corruption, political repression and unemployment and calls for the president's removal, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali has fled to Paris.

Government

- Republic; in 1987, Ben Ali came to power in a bloodless coup; in 1956, nation gained independence from France
- Moderate, nonaligned nation, but faces domestic pressure for a more open society

Size
63,170 sq. mi. (163,610 sq. km)

Population
10.6 million (2010 estimate)
Predominately Arab (98 percent); most are Muslim

Economy
Diverse Main sectors are farming, mining, tourism, manufacturing
GDP, per person \$9,200 (2009)
Inflation 3.5% (2009)
Unemployment 13.3% (2009)
Public debt 47% of GDP
Main exports Textiles, farm products, mechanical goods

© 2011 MCT
Source: CIA World Factbook
Graphic: ENR

Those deaths came on top of scores of others after a month of protests in which police often fired upon demonstrators.

After 23 years of autocratic rule, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali abruptly fled the country Friday for Saudi Arabia following mass street protests over corruption, a lack of jobs and clampdowns on civil liberties.

The leadership changes then came at a dizzying speed.

know she was a minor when she was invited to his villa near Milan last year "because I told everyone I was 24," not 17.

Asked why Berlusconi gave her the money at the first of several evening parties she said she attended at one of his villas outside Milan, Ruby replied, "because I had just arrived in Milan and he knew of my difficult family situation" and wanted to help.

As in other interviews Ruby has given, she reiterated that there was "absolutely no" sex between them.

Ruby, now 18, said that guests dined and danced at the parties and that Berlusconi "sang and told jokes."

Prosecutors say they are

Ben Ali's longtime ally, Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi, stepped in briefly with a vague assumption of power that left open the possibility that Ben Ali could return. But on Saturday, the head of the Constitutional Council declared the president's departure permanent and gave Fouad Mebazaa, leader of the lower house of parliament, 60 days to organize new elections.

investigating whether the premier had sex with the then-17-year-old girl and then used the powers of his office to try to cover up the encounter. Prosecutors issued a summons Friday for Berlusconi and his lawyers to appear for questioning.

Berlusconi has been engulfed in several scandals stemming from his private life, including reports of wild parties at his mansions and alleged encounters with prostitutes. In one case, Patrizia D'Addario, a self-described call girl, said she spent the night with Berlusconi when Barack Obama was elected U.S. president. She later gave purported tapes of her encounter with Berlusconi to an Italian magazine.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Witnesses renew doubts over China villager's death

BEIJING (AP)—A new account of the gruesome death of a village leader fighting for better compensation for seized land is renewing suspicions of police involvement and adding to a growing credibility issue for China's government. Officials have seemed powerless to control information about Qian Yunhui's death ever since photos began appearing online showing him being crushed under the wheel of a large red truck on Christmas outside his village where he and others had earlier blocked the road to prevent construction of a power plant. Angry essays have circulated on the Internet, and academics, activists and journalists have organized in-

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil slide survivors left to fend on own

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil (AP)—Pointing at the cliff of crumbling red clay, Renato Motta de Lima described a landscape that now existed only in memory: here, his grandmother's house; there, the church; below, a banana grove and the home of an aunt, uncle and the shy teenager who was his cousin. They and scores of neighbors from Cascata do Imbui lay buried underneath mud

and debris at the bottom of the once-lush hillside, victims of massive mudslides that killed at least 610 people this week. Body parts were visible in the muck Saturday, with one hand jutting out from under a massive tree trunk as if reaching for help.

Chavez calls for conciliation between rivals

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez called for conciliation between Venezuela's political rivals Sat-

urday and told recently elected lawmakers he was willing to sharply reduce the period of time he has to enact laws by decree. Chavez shook hands and chatted with opposition leaders before launching into his annual state-of-the-nation speech inside the National Assembly, then he offered to relinquish legislation allowing him to bypass the congress for 18 months. Chavez said he was willing to accept a five-month decree period instead.

Health & Fitness

Pakistani militant fight leads to polio spike

By **ROD McGUIRK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Tiny Shamsa is a victim of the war against Islamist militants in northwest Pakistan, but it wasn't bullets or bombs that paralyzed her right leg. The 18-month-old contracted polio after fighting blocked vaccination teams from reaching her village.

In a country with no shortage of alarming statistics, here is another: Pakistan was the only country in 2010 to record an increase in cases of the crippling disease - 138, up from 89 in the previous year, according to World Health Organization figures. That made it the nation with the highest incidence of polio in the world.

Most cases were in the northwest close to the Afghan border, where battles between the U.S.-supported Pakistani army and Taliban fighters make many areas too dangerous to visit. The army bans travel to parts of the region, citing the security situation, and territory under militant control is highly dangerous for outsiders, even Pakistani aid workers.

In 2009, one Pakistan Taliban commander declared the vaccine un-Islamic, echoing a few conservative clerics in other Muslim countries. But others have not publicly stated any objections. In Afghanistan, the Taliban cooperate with health workers administering the vaccine, in part because doing so adds to the movement's legitimacy.

Polio was eradicated generations ago from the Western world, but remains endemic in Pakistan, neighboring Afghanistan and India, as well as Nigeria. Sometimes fatal and highly contagious, it can be prevented with a few drops of bitter vaccine on a child's tongue.

Eradication needs a comprehensive vaccination campaign. Missing even a single child can

mean the disease reappearing. In 2010, India recorded 41 cases, Afghanistan 24 and Nigeria 18, according to WHO. A WHO-backed campaign, which began in 1988, aims to eradicate polio from Pakistan by the end of 2011. But some doctors say privately that the target will not be met.

"It is upsetting to know that our only child could not get vaccine because of the troubles," said Shamsa's mother, Majeeda Ali, at a hospital in the main northwestern city of Peshawar recently where she took her daughter for treatment recently. "Yes, I am angry."

Workers from the United Nations' children's agency, which is helping administer the vaccine, say they have not been

able to access Shamsa's village in the Khyber region for almost two years because of intensified Pakistan military efforts to rid the region of al-Qaida and Taliban militants. Shamsa caught polio last year.

WHO director general Margaret Chan raised the effect of the conflict on the worsening polio rate in October last year during a meeting with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari. She complained that health workers could only reach two in every three children in the northwest tribal border region due to the security situation, WHO said. Zardari pledged the government's support to eradicate polio.

"The number one reason (for the increase in cases) is that the

majority of the cases are originating from those areas which are not accessible due to the war going on, or are cordoned off by the army which is not allowing any civilians or any WHO or UNICEF personnel to go there," said Aziz Memon, national chairman of the Polio Plus Pakistan Committee.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said he was unaware of many areas where health organizations are not able to deliver necessary vaccinations. The army helps facilitate access in certain areas where the security threat is high, he said.

Vaccination in war zones is possible, but difficult and often politically sensitive.

UNICEF helped broker a truce between Sri Lanka and separatist rebels in Tamil Tiger-held territory during the 1990s that enabled families to travel safely to polio vaccinations

centers on so-called "Days of Tranquility" when warring sides agreed to lay their weapons down. Polio has not been reported in Sri Lanka for well over a decade.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban fighting U.S. and Afghan forces allow vaccine teams to move around.

"All of the time, we are co-operating with the health workers," said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid. "In the past and now, there is no problem because it is useful for the Afghan children."

Memon said organizing such a cease-fire was a far more complex proposition in Pakistan, where Pakistani fighter jets, helicopter gunships and CIA drone-fired missiles regularly pound targets. It would also rely on the support of the Pakistani state, which may well be reluctant to agree to something that

could legitimize the militants.

"The Tamil Tigers were one group," Memon said. "Here, there are the Pakistani Taliban, Afghani Taliban, there are this man's group and that man's group—it's a totally messy affair."

Janbaz Afridi, director of the Pakistani government's polio program in the northwest, said vaccination teams were determined to reach all children in the northwest. New strategies include enlisting villagers to persuade militants to support vaccination, he said.

Other Muslim countries have also encountered some resistance from conservative clerics, which have spread false rumors that the vaccine was part of a sterilization campaign or derived from pig products. A few clerics have even argued that vaccination in general is un-Islamic because it tampers with the will of God.



In this Dec. 28, 2010 photo, Shamsa, 18-month-old, a Pakistani girl whose right leg is paralyzed from polio is held by her mother at a hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Study: Taking more steps could lower diabetes risk

LONDON (AP)—Walk more, and not only burn off calories, but also lessen the chance of becoming diabetic, a new study says.

As part of a national study in Australia to measure diabetes levels, experts gave nearly 600 adults a pedometer to measure how many steps they took over two consecutive days in 2000 and again in 2005.

Participants also completed a diet and lifestyle questionnaire and had their measurements—including height, weight and insulin sensitivity—taken.

It was found that people who walked the most after five years

not only had a lower body mass index, but were also more sensitive to insulin and less likely to develop diabetes.

The study was paid for by the Australian government and pharmaceutical groups who make diabetes drugs, including Abbott Australasia, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb. It was published Thursday in the journal BMJ.

Many governments and health officials recommend people walk 10,000 steps a day, the equivalent of about five miles (eight kilometres). The study authors, from the Murdoch

Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, estimated that if a sedentary person increased their daily steps to reach the 10,000 step threshold, he or she would lower their body mass index by almost one point and improve their sensitivity to insulin by three times.

Health officials have long suggested people stay slim and exercise to avoid diabetes.

"Think about what you do each day and how you can work in more steps," advises the American Diabetes Association on its website, which recommends taking the stairs instead of the elevator. "You'll be amazed at how these extra minutes and steps add up."

ON THE NET

<http://www.bmj.com>
<http://www.diabetes.org>

Personal Trainer

Runaway muscle

Scientists still do not understand well what causes most muscle cramps, but in general a cramp is a muscle running out of control.

What should happen

- 1 Brain sends signal to muscle
- 2 Muscle tightens, nerves detect movement and signal brain what's happening
- 3 Brain fine-tunes muscle contraction
- 4 Brain tells muscle to relax to normal ready condition

What happens in a cramp

- 1 Brain sends signal to muscle, or some other cause stimulates nerve and triggers muscle
- 2 Muscle tightens hard; cramp triggers pain sensors
- 3 Brain orders muscle to stop; muscle ignores signal or never gets it
- 4 Cramp lasts until muscle becomes fatigued or is massaged and relaxes

Dehydration can cause cramps because it makes nerves malfunction

© 2011 MCT

Source: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

PIC celebrates Russian New Year

PHOTOS and TEXT

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

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REPORTER

“S Prazdnikom” or Happy Holidays greetings filled the air and bright fireworks illuminated the night sky as Pacific Islands Club hosted its 10th Annual Russian New Year’s party last Jan. 13 at the hotel’s beach side.

About 160 guests welcomed the Russian New Year based on the Russian Orthodox Church calendar in a radiant and dazzling “Voyage Under the Sea” style.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Department of Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas joined Russian tourists and



Konstantin Pospelov, a famous Russian celebrity, shows one of his tricks to Russian guests during the 10th Annual Russian New Year’s Party at the Pacific Islands Club last Jan. 13.



DJ Vitaliy Rogozin and Russian celebrity Konstantin Pospelov pose with Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

local patrons in enjoying the meticulously prepared buffet menu that featured delectable seafood dishes.

Guests were entertained by the popular Russian celebrities, party writer and producer Konstantin Pospelov and DJ Vitaliy Rogozin with various games and musical performances.

PIC web marketing manager Elly Stoilova said they were also able to raise over \$400 for the orphans at Children Hospi-

tal #3 in Vladivostok, Russia as part of their “Sharing Seeds” charity project.

Stoilova noted the importance of Russian guests for the local economy and expressed hope that the islands will continue to accommodate and enhance the Russian tourist market.

“We hope that CNMI will be able to keep the visa-free status for the Russian market to continue developing it,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.



Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, right, pose for a photo with Russian guests.



Famous Russian celebrity Konstantin Pospelov in one of his costumes.

Russian guests dance the night away.



Clarence Tenorio enjoy the party with his family.

'Social Network' best pic at Critics' Choice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Social Network" keeps making friends, winning the Critics' Choice award for best picture and three other prizes.

But "Inception" led all films Friday night with six awards total, all in technical categories.

Best actor went to Colin Firth for his portrayal of King George VI, who overcame a stammer with the help of an unconventional speech therapist, in "The King's Speech," while Natalie Portman won best actress for playing a ballerina who descends into madness in "Black Swan."

"The Social Network," which chronicles the origin of Facebook, also won for David Fincher's direction, Aaron Sor-



Actress Natalie Portman arrives at the 16th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, in Los Angeles. AP

Former Golden Globes publicist sues, claims payola

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former publicist for the organization that runs the Golden Globes sued the group on the eve of its glitzy awards show, claiming it engages in payola schemes for nominations and awards.

Michael Russell sued the Hollywood Foreign Press Association late Thursday, just three days before NBC airs the annual gathering of Hollywood royalty that has been bumped twice from the airwaves over the years due to scandal.

The lawsuit claims many association members "abuse their positions and engage in unethical and potentially unlawful deals and arrangements which amount to a 'payola' scheme" that could be illegal and jeopardize the group's tax-exempt status.

The court filing, however, does not list any specific examples in which a studio or producer has paid for a Golden Globes nomination or award.

A statement from Ken Sunshine, whose company currently handles the show's public relations, said the allegations were without merit.

"This is no more than the case of a disgruntled former consulting firm, whose contract was not renewed, attempting to take advantage once again of the Globe's international stage for their own gain," the statement reads.

Russell's lawsuit seeks \$2 million and alleges breach of contract, defamation and fraud over the association's firing of Russell and his partner after the awards show last year. The complaint states the pair were dismissed after a dispute with association President Philip Berk over a charity and advertising campaign with Chrysler.

The pair frequently tried to raise the issue of ethical and potentially unlawful activity to Berk, the complaint states, but the claims were ignored.



In this Jan. 11, 2009 file photo, celebrities arrive at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

The suit also alleges the association sells prime spots on the show's red carpet to lesser-known media outlets.

Timothy McGonigle, an attorney representing Russell and partner Stephen Locascio, rejected claims they were acting out of spite.

"Michael Russell and Stephen Locascio have brought this lawsuit in the hope that the Hollywood Foreign Press will take the problems seriously and change their practices so that their awards will have credibility," he said.

Although the show is a precursor to the Academy Awards, it has long been criticized for some of its nominations, which

are perceived as a way to gain favor with top actors.

This year's show has been no different, with criticism of acting nominations for Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie for "The Tourist," a critical and commercial flop.

Still, the show has been known to boost the Oscar chances of some contenders and to be more unpredictable than other award shows.

Preparations were progressing Friday for Sunday's show at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, as crews laid out the red carpet, stages were built, and media personnel were shown where they could set up cameras.

Like many of the actors and

actresses the show spotlights, the Golden Globes has had its share of scandal.

In the late 1960s, the Federal Communications Commission questioned the authenticity of the voting process, and the show was knocked off the air for several years. The FCC cited the network for careless oversight in failing to verify the credentials of the voters and the secrecy of the results.

Russell's lawsuit notes another controversy that cast the Globes into relative obscurity for more than a decade.

In the early 1980s, the awards show lost its broadcast deal with CBS after its members were accused of receiving favors in exchange for giving actress Pia Zadora a newcomer award.

In 2008, the show was reduced to a press conference when actors refused to cross picket lines during the height of a Hollywood writers strike.

Since 1996, the ceremony has been broadcast by NBC, which Russell said was due in part to his work rebuilding the association's credibility. According to the lawsuit, the network has paid \$12 million a year for the broadcast rights in a deal that expires after Sunday's show. The lawsuit claims a renewed license fee could jump to \$26 million a year.

NBC declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The association sued the show's longtime producer, Dick Clark Productions, in November, claiming the company entered a broadcast agreement with NBC without the association's permission. Dick Clark Productions has denied wrongdoing and asked a federal judge to dismiss the case. That motion is scheduled to be heard in March.

The association currently has 90 members from six continents, far less than the roughly 6,000 voters who select Oscar winners.

kin's adapted screenplay and the score from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.

The boxing drama "The Fighter" won in three categories: supporting actor Christian Bale, supporting actress Melissa Leo and best ensemble.

But from a numerical standpoint, "Inception" was the big winner of the night. Christopher Nolan's psychological dream thriller won for cinematography, art direction, editing, visual effects, sound and best action movie. The Critics' Choice Movie Awards, bestowed by the Broadcast Film Critics Association, were given out at the Hollywood Palladium.

Among the other winners, "Toy Story 3" was named best

animated film, "Waiting for 'Superman'" took the documentary prize, "Easy A" won best comedy and "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" was the foreign-language winner. Hailee Steinfeld won the best young actor or actress award for her film debut in the Coen brothers' version of "True Grit."

The front-runner this awards season, "The Social Network" has won top honors from several critics groups, including those in New York and Los Angeles and the National Society of Film Critics. It's up for six Golden Globe Awards Sunday night, while "The King's Speech" leads with seven nominations. Both are competing for best drama.

Son suggests Reagan had Alzheimer's as president



In this July 27, 2004 file photo, Ron Reagan, son former President Ronald Reagan, talks about stem cell research to the delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Boston. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Ronald Reagan's son suggests in a new book that his father suffered from the beginning stages of Alzheimer's disease while he was still in the White House.

The memoir quotes excerpts from Ron Reagan's book "My Father at 100," published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA).

Reagan's son writes that he believes his father would have left office before his second term ended in 1989 had the disease been diagnosed then. U.S. News & World Report was the first to break the publishing embargo.

"I've seen no evidence that my father (or anyone else) was aware of his medical condition while he was in office," Reagan writes. "Had the diagnosis been made in, say 1987, would he have stepped down? I believe he would have."

Ronald Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1994, five years after leaving office. The popular Republican president died in 2004 at age 93 from complications of the disease.

The younger Reagan recalls

how his father became uncharacteristically lost for words and looked "lost and bewildered" during the 1984 presidential debates with Democratic rival Walter Mondale. He says his father may have suspected the onset of Alzheimer's in 1986 when he was flying over familiar canyons north of Los Angeles and became alarmed that he could no longer remember their names.

But Reagan says the issue of his father's health should not tarnish his legacy as the nation's 40th president.

"Does this delegitimize his presidency? Only to the extent that President Kennedy's Addison's disease or Lincoln's clinical depression undermine theirs," Reagan writes. "Better, it seems to me, to judge our presidents by what they actually accomplish than what hidden factors may be weighing on them."

He continues: "That likely condition, though, serves as a reminder that when we elect presidents, we elect human beings with all their foibles and weaknesses, psychological and physiological."

Miss Nebraska wins 2011 Miss America pageant

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 17-year-old from Nebraska became the youngest winner of the Miss America crown in 90 years on Saturday after beating 52 other young women from across the United States.

Teresa Scanlan won a \$50,000 scholarship and a year-long run with the crown at the competition at the Planet Hollywood casino-resort in Las Vegas, giving the Cornhusker State its first-ever win at the pageant.

She was the youngest Miss America since the pageant's first competition in 1921, when Margaret Gorman of the District of Columbia won at age 15.

Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady won \$25,000 as first runner-up, while Miss Hawaii Jalee Fuselier won \$20,000 for third place.

Scanlan, a recent high school graduate from the western Nebraska town of Gering, planned to study American politics at Patrick Henry College in Virginia after her reign as Miss America.

She also hoped to attend law school, become a judge and eventually a politician, according to her pageant biography.

Scanlan won after strutting in a black bikini and a white evening gown, playing "White Water Chopped Sticks" on piano and telling the audience that when it comes to the website Wikileaks, security should come before public access to government information.

"You know when it came to that situation, it was actually based on espionage, and when it comes to the security of our nation, we have to focus on security first and then people's right to know, because it's so important that everybody who's in our borders is safe and so we can't let things like that happen, and they must be handled properly," she said.

The contestants—from every state plus the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico—started the show



Teresa Scanlan, Miss Nebraska waves to the audience after being crowned Miss America 2011 during the Miss America pageant, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011 in Las Vegas.

by dancing up the aisles while wearing silver cocktail dresses.

A panel of seven judges eyed them for looks and fitness. The competition included evening gown, talent and interview portions, with eliminations for 15 finalists, then 12, then 10, five and finally the winner along the way.

The judges had picked Miss Oklahoma Emoly West; Miss Texas Ashley Melnick; Miss

Rhode Island Deborah Saint-Vil; Miss Utah Christina Lowe; Miss Washington Jacquie Brown; Miss Arizona Kathryn Bulkley; Miss Virginia Caitlin Uze, and Miss California Arianna Afsar.

Fans voted in Miss New York Claire Buffie and Miss Delaware Kayla Martell.

And in a first-ever twist for the contest, the young women picked

two finalists themselves, Miss Kentucky Djuan Trent and Miss Oregon Stephenie Denise Steers.

In her introduction to the audience, Bulkley dedicated her performance to U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head last week in Tucson. Bulkley called Giffords her mentor.

The pageant celebrated its 90th anniversary this year.

HLN's Nancy Grace doing 50 shows on missing people

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—HLN's Nancy Grace on Monday will launch two months' worth of special programs on missing persons, hoping prime time attention can loosen fresh clues in some cases that are as much as 20 or 30 years old.

"Nancy Grace: America's Missing" will air 50 separate cases on 50 weekdays at 9 p.m. EST, following Grace's regular nightly program.

Grace said it's often frustrating on her show when a missing persons case is covered that it often gets quickly shoved aside when something new comes up.

"Anything that can move a case forward to me would be worth it," she said. "If a case gets solved that would be like a blessing from heaven."

Her effort starts Monday with the story of 10-year-old Lindsey Baum, from Washington state, who was last seen leaving a friend's house in June 2009. The majority of the cases involve children or teenagers, but not all: Grace will talk about a 27-year-old

television anchorwoman from Iowa who has been missing since 1995, for example.

Grace said she's not naive enough to think that many, or any, of the missing people will be discovered alive through the attention paid on her show. But she said if information can be uncovered that would lead to closure for a suffering family, that would be valuable.

Her focus on missing people has sometimes borne fruit. In December, San Francisco police arrested a man found panhandling with a 12-year-old girl who had been abducted from Virginia. Police said a witness reported she had recognized the two from Grace's show.

Grace's show had proposed "America's Missing" when HLN approached them with a request to do a second hour as part of the network's transition to a new schedule. After the 50 days are over, HLN is premiering a Drew Pinsky talk show in the 9 p.m. EST time slot. Joy Behar's show moves to 10 p.m., starting Monday.



This May 21, 2009 photo released by CNN, shows host Nancy Grace, in Atlanta.

Octomom concedes she was baby addict on 'Oprah'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Octomom" Nadya Suleman was addicted to having children when she gave birth to octuplets in 2009 and called herself "stupid" for allowing herself to get into huge debt, she told "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in an episode that aired Friday.

Suleman, who has been plagued with money problems and threatened with eviction from her Southern California home, appeared on Winfrey's show for a financial intervention from money guru Suze Orman.

"I think I could've been self-medicating through children," Suleman said. "Kids are safer. Kids won't leave you. Kids will give me the unconditional acceptance and love that I didn't feel I got from my mother."

Suleman said she felt a "hole" after six kids and wanted more, but that after 14 kids the hole



In this March 11, 2009 file photo, Nadya Suleman, the mother of octuplets, leaves her home in Whittier, Calif.

was still there.

"If I knew then what I know now, I would not have said, 'Doctor, one more,'" Suleman said.

When Suleman said she paid for in vitro fertilization through savings, to which Orman replied: "Lie, lie, lie!"

Orman said she had seen Suleman's finances and insisted she had borrowed the money.

She heatedly urged Suleman to give up private school and excessive gifts for her children, and a personal trainer and manicures for herself.

"It makes me want to throw

up thinking about it," Suleman said in response. "I am so stupid. I am so stupid."

Orman urged Suleman to get an agent and look into doing more television and other media with her children as she did in the months after they were born, something Suleman said she would no longer do for fears that she would be perceived as crazy or was exploiting her children.

"They already think you're crazy," Orman said.

Suleman has a \$4,000 mortgage payment due on Feb. 1, and is months overdue on a \$450,000 balloon payment.

Steven Hirsch, co-founder of adult film company Vivid Entertainment, has offered to pay her February mortgage while he considers buying the La Habra home. Suleman has not commented on the offer.

FX drama 'Rescue Me' ends near somber anniversary

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The FX firefighters' drama "Rescue Me" will end its seven-year run less than a week before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

FX President John Landgraf said Saturday that the Sept. 6 finale date was chosen intentionally. The series, with Denis Leary as the star and co-creator, is a story about New York firefighters dealing with the grief of losing friends and relatives in the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center.

"It seemed appropriate not to air it on the day," he said, "because there are more solemn and appropriate things to do on the day. The weeks surrounding

the day seemed to be the appropriate place to do it."

The end of the series will deal on some level with a catharsis that comes at the end of the grieving period, he said.

Leary's character Tommy, whose best-friend cousin died at ground zero, saw some of his wounds reopen at one point in "Rescue Me" when a journalist appeared to research the tragedy for a 10th anniversary book. Landgraf said the series has been a real milestone for FX, which has only been around as a television network for a decade. Its quality and distinctiveness set a tone, he said.

"It's hard to find that kind of a show," he said.

Actor Owen Wilson is a new dad



In this Dec. 13, 2010 file photo, Owen Wilson arrives at the premiere of the film "How Do You Know" in Los Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Actor Owen Wilson is a new dad.

A publicist for the 42-year-old actor confirms that Wilson and girlfriend Jade Duell welcomed a baby boy in Hawaii on Friday.

Wilson spokeswoman Ina Treciokas did not release additional details, but the

Los Angeles Times reports the child, named Ford Linton Wilson, weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

Wilson appeared in the recent films "Little Fockers" and "How Do You Know." His other credits include "Marley & Me," "Drillbit Taylor" and "Wedding Crashers."

Martha Stewart receives stitches after dog strikes lip



Martha Stewart, pictured with her French Bulldogs Francesca and Sharkey, in this Oct. 20, 2009 file photo.

NEW YORK (AP)—Martha Stewart isn't likely to whisper sweet nothings into her dozing dog's ear anytime again soon.

The 69-year-old lifestyle guru wrote on her blog Thursday that she needed stitches after startling her dog Francesca while leaning down to "whisper goodbye." The dog jumped up and rammed into Stewart.

She writes that she "felt a bit of whiplash as blood gushed" from her split lip

Tuesday night.

She initially called police to ask for a ride to the hospital but realized her driver was waiting to drive her from her home in the suburbs to New York City for a "Today" show appearance.

Stewart landed in the Northern Westchester Hospital emergency room and received stitches in her upper lip.

She posted photos of the mishap on her blog.

Bluegrass icon recovering from pacemaker procedure

COEBURN, Va. (AP)—Ralph Stanley's publicist says the 83-year-old bluegrass music pioneer is recovering at his southwestern Virginia home after a procedure to insert a pacemaker.

Norma Morris says Stanley had the procedure Monday after experiencing a lengthy bout of sluggishness and lack of

energy. She told the Roanoke Times that Stanley was feeling better when she spoke to him by phone Thursday night, and he is expected to be fine.

The Grammy Award-winning musician only had to cancel one show. His next scheduled performance is at the Grand Ole Opry on Jan. 21 and 22.

Husband: Gabor smiling and talking after surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband says the actress is smiling and talking, a day after doctors amputated most of her right leg.

Frederic Prinz von Anhalt said Saturday that Gabor is heavily sedated and does not yet know that her leg has been removed. He says he'll tell her when she regains more of her strength.

Doctors at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center decided to amputate Friday when a persistent infection wouldn't heal.

Von Anhalt says the 93-year-old "Moulin Rouge" and "Queen of Outer Space" star will likely spend up to four weeks in the hospital.

Gabor broke her hip and had replacement surgery in July, and has been hospitalized several times since for swelling in her legs and blood clots throughout her body.



This Aug. 15, 1986 file photo shows actress Zsa Zsa Gabor on her wedding day in Los Angeles. Doctors in Los Angeles say Friday Jan. 14, 2011 they have successfully amputated most of Zsa Zsa Gabor's right leg.

Kid rocks his hometown at Detroit birthday bash

DETROIT (AP)—Kid Rock has taken to a stage in Detroit to celebrate the big 4-0 with a fitting song: "Birthday" by the Beatles.

Tens of thousands of his fans filled Ford Field on Saturday night to help the hometown rocker celebrate. The special birthday concert in honor of the man born Robert Ritchie sold out in 19 minutes—a sign of the following the star commands in these parts.

And Kid Rock didn't dis-

appoint.

Early in the show, Uncle Kracker joined Rock on stage for "Good To Be Me," and talk show hosts Conan O'Brien and Jay Leno appeared on the two oversized video screens on either side of the stage in taped messages wishing their friend a happy birthday.

O'Brien told Rock: "Happy 40th birthday ... and rock on Detroit!"



Kid Rock performs at Ford Field in Detroit, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

Happily unattached woman enjoys feeling of freedom

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I was married at 17 and ran away at 37 when I finally admitted to myself that my husband did not love me. After that, I went through a deep depression that took years to recover from. I have been divorced for 13 years and am happy being unencumbered. I choose to live alone.

I enjoy companionship and am seeing not one, but two, men. They both want a commitment, and I do not. One knows about the other; the other doesn't. They know I have had relationships in the past.

I have already had family, kids and grandkids. I see no reason to marry again or have a serious commitment to anyone. What is your advice?

Dear Abby

CONTENT IN IOWA

DEAR CONTENT: My advice is to let the gentleman who doesn't know you are seeing someone else in on the secret. Other than that, because you are happy with the status quo, I have no other advice to offer.

DEAR ABBY: Before my mother died a year ago, she told me a secret. She said my middle-aged brother "Donnie" was conceived with a sperm donation rather than my father (also deceased), whose sperm count was low. My brother doesn't know this, and Mom didn't tell him before she died.

Donnie has had numerous emotional problems and has unresolved issues with our parents. Do you think it's important that he know of his "origin," or is this a secret I should take with me to the grave? I don't want to hurt him with this information, only to help him resolve some of his negative feelings toward our parents. I hate keeping family secrets, but I will remain silent if telling him would do more harm than good.

HALF-SISTER IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR HALF-SISTER: Your half-brother should be told the truth. It may be difficult for him to hear, but on the other hand, it could explain some of the unspoken family dynamics that may have led to his unresolved issues with your parents. It might also help him understand why he felt "different," or may have felt he was treated differently than you were.

DEAR ABBY: I have a grandchild whose parents are strict, which I don't mind, but when Mom loses her cool, she starts name-calling. She'll say things like, "You're a brat!" etc. in front of whomever, wherever we happen to be. It goes against my grain to call anyone names.

Should I talk to the parents about this or stay out of their business? I don't interfere with the way any of my children raise their kids, but I'm very concerned over this. What do I do or say? Should I speak up, or hold my peace? I hurt for the grandkids when this happens. It isn't good for their self-esteem.

UNSURE IN RED WING, MINN.

DEAR UNSURE: I know very few perfect parents, but if your family member does this on a regular basis, you should say something. The problem with labeling a child is that if an adult does it often enough, the child can grow up thinking the label is accurate. A better way to handle the situation would be for Mom to say firmly: "Stop that! When you do that it makes me angry, and if it happens again, you'll: (1) get a time out; (2) we're going outside until you can behave; or (3) I won't bring you here again!"

DEAR READERS: Today we remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who in 1968 was martyred in the cause of civil rights. He was an eloquent man who preached that "love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." His was a voice of reason in a time of insanity, silenced too soon.

ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-009

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011



ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: \$36,000 to \$60,000 per year, **Un-graded, Un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)
Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Three years experience directly related to electrical power distribution systems. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. Knowledge of: REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Communication and problem-solving Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-010

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011



SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: \$75,000 to \$90,000 per year, **un-graded, un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)
Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Four years of progressively responsible engineering experience directly related to power distribution systems. Must be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. Knowledge of: REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Communication and problem-solving; Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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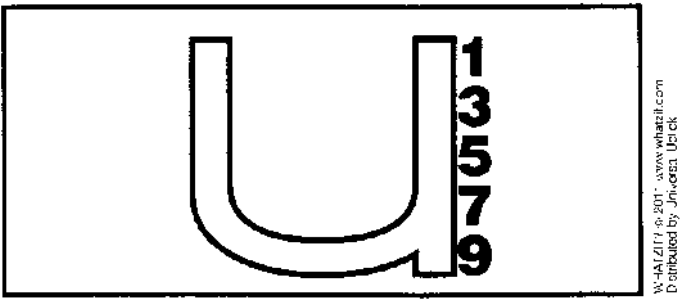
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Steelers rally, beat Ravens in AFC playoffs

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A most fitting comeback for Ben Roethlisberger.

With the kind of play-making that put two Super Bowl rings on his fingers, the Steelers quarterback connected on a 58-yard pass to rookie Antonio Brown with less than two minutes to go. The go-for-broke toss set up the winning touchdown in a rough-and-tumble 31-24 victory Saturday over the archrival Baltimore Ravens.

"Let's just chuck it deep," Roethlisberger told offensive coordinator Bruce Arians just before he threw his biggest pass of the season. "If they pick it, it will be a pick way down there, just as good as a punt. ... I just throw it as far as I can."

He did.

"It was kind of amazing," Brown said. "It kind of stuck to my shoulder."

As a result, the Steelers (13-4) are a win away from their third Super Bowl in six seasons. The Steelers will play the winner of Sunday's game between the New York Jets and New England Patriots.

Rashard Mendenhall scored the winning TD from 2 yards with 1:33 left. That ended any ideas the Ravens had of finally winning a playoff game against their division rivals.

Roethlisberger took his shots early from the Ravens' defense, but threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns before his big pass on third-and-19.

"He may not be (Tom) Brady or all those other guys, but when I see him in the huddle I know we've got a chance to win," said Hines Ward, who caught a TD pass. "He's a proven winner. And history shows he's a proven winner against Baltimore."

The third meeting this season between these AFC North rivals had the usual skirmishes, but also was filled with penalties and turnovers.

It's been a rugged season for the Steelers' quarterback. His life and reputation were in tatters 10 months ago following sexual assault allegations that weren't prosecuted. He was suspended for the first four games of the season, and helped his team finish with 12 victories and a first-round bye.

"It's Ben. You give this guy an opportunity to snap it; he's capable of producing plays," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "It's not always how you draw it up, but he has a no-blink mentality. He is a competitor and a winner. And those guys follow him."

While the Steelers trailed by two TDs at the half, it was the Ravens who fell apart in the in the second half as the team they love to beat most came back to knock them out of the postseason. The Steelers are 9-0 against division teams in the postseason.

The Steelers were trailing 21-7 after turnovers created two Ravens touchdowns. But they came back with the help of three Baltimore turnovers in the third quarter. It was so bad, the Ravens' minus-4 yards in offense wasn't the worst of it; they ended with 28 yards in the second half.

"We knew we had to play great. We knew if we didn't play great we were going to lose this game," defensive end Brett Keisel said.

Baltimore was outgained 263-126 and Joe Flacco was 16 of 30 for 125 yards.

The Ravens' last chance to beat the



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger fires a pass during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

Steelers—they haven't in three post-season tries—ended when T.J. Houshmandzadeh dropped Flacco's fourth-down pass at the Steelers' 38 with 1:03 remaining.

"We knew it would be a close game," Houshmandzadeh said. "I didn't think it needed to be, but it was."

Failing to protect the ball cost the Ravens—even after they scored two touchdowns in less than 30 seconds in the first half. Defensive end Cory Redding returned a Roethlisberger fumble for a touchdown that both teams thought was an incompleteness, but that wasn't nearly enough on a day when the Ravens' offense did so little.

"What better way to put the Ravens out of the tournament," Ward said. "They keep asking for us and we keep putting them out of the tournament. They're going to be ticked about this for a long time."

With Baltimore up 21-7, Ryan Clark forced a rare fumble by Ray Rice on a screen pass, and LaMarr Woodley recovered at the 23. The play re-energized the crowd of 64,879 that had grown silent as Baltimore opened its two-TD lead.

"You know what, our offense went in there (at halftime) and said, 'We played terrible. We gave them the ball in prime position too many times,'" Roethlisberger said. "We had to do something about it."

Mendenhall ran for 14 yards before Roethlisberger's 9-yard scoring pass to Heath Miller, who missed two games after sustaining a concussion on a hit by Jameel McClain during the Steelers'

13-10 win in Baltimore last month.

Later in the quarter, Flacco overthrew tight end Todd Heap, and Clark returned the interception 17 yards to the 25. Three plays later, Roethlisberger found ol' reliable Ward, absent in the offense most of the day, for an 8-yard touchdown pass and it was tied at 21.

Along the sideline, the Ravens had the look of a team that couldn't believe it had squandered the lead—and couldn't figure out how to get it back. They never did.

"We felt good at the half," Rice said. "Our defense had them stopped and I thought we were going to come out and handle our business. But then the situation happened: fumble, turnover, another turnover."

Roethlisberger went 19 of 32 in beating the Ravens for the seventh successive time in a rivalry in which both teams had won twice by 3-point margins during the last two seasons. The asterisk: Roethlisberger didn't play in either Steelers loss.

Baltimore turned it over for the third time in 9 minutes as center Matt Birk snapped the ball early to Flacco, who never got his hands on it, and Keisel recovered at the 23.

The drive stalled, but Shaun Suisham, who had missed earlier from the 43, converted a 35-yard field goal with 12:15 remaining to give Pittsburgh its first lead, 24-21, since its opening drive.

An apparent punt return touchdown by Lardarius Webb was negated by a holding penalty on Marcus Smith, but the Ravens—with only 36 yards of of-

fense in the half to that point—tied it at 24 on Billy Cundiff's 24-yard field goal with 3:54 remaining. That was too much time for Roethlisberger, who excels in fourth-quarter comebacks.

Packers 48, Falcons 21

In Atlanta, as Aaron Rodgers trotted off the field, savoring another playoff win, he was serenaded with chants of "Go, Pack, Go!"

This wasn't Lambeau Field, but it sure sounded like it.

Looking very much at home, Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, ran for another score and led the Green Bay Packers to their second straight postseason road victory with a stunning 48-21 rout of the top-seeded Atlanta Falcons on Saturday night.

"This just feels so good right now," said Rodgers, who threw for 366 yards and led Green Bay to the highest-scoring playoff game in its storied history.

The Packers (12-6) will have to win one more on the road to complete their improbable run from sixth seed to the Super Bowl, but nothing looks out of the question the way Rodgers is playing. He'll lead Green Bay into the NFC championship game at either Chicago or Seattle next weekend.

"This probably was my best performance—the stage we were on, the importance of this game," Rodgers said. "It was a good night."

He completed 31 of 36 passes and put up more yards than Brett Favre—the guy he replaced in Green Bay—ever threw for in a playoff game. After knocking off Michael Vick and the Eagles in Philadelphia, then dominating Matt Ryan and the Falcons in Atlanta, Rodgers is creating his own legacy in Titletown USA.

Brett who?

Green Bay scored 35 consecutive points, including Tramon Williams' 70-yard interception return on the final play of the first half that left the Falcons (13-4) and a crowd of more than 69,000 in a state of shock as the teams headed to the locker room.

The Packers could've left punter Tim Masthay at home. He was never needed.

"I felt like I was in the zone," Rodgers said.

Ryan, who beat out Rodgers for a spot in the Pro Bowl, had a miserable night. He also was picked off in the end zone, costing Atlanta another scoring chance early on that might've changed the complexion of the game, and lost a fumble attempting a simple sneak. In two career playoff games, Matty Ice is 0-2 with six turnovers and a safety.

"Anytime you're in the playoffs, you have an opportunity to win it all," Ryan said. "When that doesn't happen, it's frustrating."

The Falcons went into the playoffs as the NFC's top-seeded team for only the second time in franchise history. The result was the same as it was during the 1980 season: one and done.

In the locker room afterward, coach Mike Smith tried to make sense of it for his players.

"We will learn from it. That's the important thing," he said. "I also told 'em, as bad as they feel right now, remember the whole body of work we put out there this year. We can't forget that either."

This game was pretty much over

when Rodgers guided the Packers on an 80-yard drive to open the second half, running the last 7 yards for the TD that made it 35-14.

When Rodgers drove the Packers on yet another scoring drive, capped off with a 7-yard pass to John Kuhn late in the third quarter, thousands of red-clad fans headed for the exits, not even bothering to hang around for the final period of a magical season than turned into a green nightmare in the playoffs.

The Falcons simply couldn't stop Rodgers, who carved up the Atlanta defense on four drive of at least 80 yards.

Time after time, Rodgers ducked a shoulder or pulled off a nifty spin move to get away from a rusher, leaving him grasping at air. Inevitably, he's find the open man in what became an increasingly tortured night for the Falcons.

"I had eyes in the back of my head," Rodgers quipped.

Atlanta's only defensive stop came on Green Bay's opening possession, when Stephen Nicholas chased down Greg Jennings from behind and forced a fumble that was recovered by Brett Grimes.

The Falcons quickly drove for the opening score, a 12-yard run by Michael Turner. Unfortunately for the home team, it had to give the ball back to Rodgers. And, as everyone soon discovered, there was no stopping No. 12. A 13-play, 81-yard drive evened the score, Rodgers finishing it off with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson.

The Falcons last gasp, as it turned out, was Eric Weems' 102-yard return on the ensuing kickoff, the longest scoring play in NFL playoff history.

Rodgers went right back to work, even after the Packers bobbled the next kickoff out of bounds at the 8-yard line. With nearly the entire field in front of him, he guided the Packers 92 yards in 10 plays for Kuhn's 1-yard plunge that made it 14-all.

Ryan was the first to crack in this quarterback duel. He had the Falcons in scoring position again, but Michael Jenkins slipped on a pass in the end zone, allowing Williams to make an easy interception.

Back to Rodgers, who needed only seven plays to torch the Falcons on an 80-yard drive. The touchdown was a perfectly thrown pass to James Jones along the side of the end zone, allowing the receiver to leap over shorter cornerback Brent Grimes for a 20-yard score with 48 seconds left in the first half.

The Packers had their first lead, 21-14, but it was still a game.

Not for long.

Atlanta hustled into position to try a field goal before halftime, thanks to a pair of pass interference penalties. But Ryan was sacked by Clay Matthews with 10 seconds to go, forcing the Falcons to call their final timeout.

Instead of sending out Matt Bryant to attempt a 53-yard kick, coach Mike Smith wanted to get it a little closer. Bad move. The Packers knew Ryan had to throw it near the sideline to stop the clock, and Williams read the play perfectly.

The cornerback, who sealed the win over the Eagles by intercepting Vick in the end zone, stepped in front of a quick out pass intended for Roddy White and was gone on a 70-yard interception return for a touchdown on the final play of the half.

Bulls beat LeBron-less Heat behind Rose



CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose scored 34 points and Kyle Korver hit a crucial 3-pointer with 25 seconds left Saturday night as the Chicago Bulls withstood a stellar performance by Dwyane Wade to beat the Miami

Heat 99-96.

Miami, playing without injured LeBron James for a second consecutive game, lost its third straight despite a 33-point performance from Chicago native Wade, who scored 12 in the fourth quarter, including three straight 3-pointers to give the Heat the lead.

The Heat's Chris Bosh added 17, but hurt his ankle in the closing second of the third period when he went to the floor during a scramble for the ball. He returned to the game in the fourth but played only briefly before leaving the game.

Grizzlies 89, Mavericks 70

In Memphis, Zach Randolph had 23 points and 20 rebounds, and Memphis ruined Dirk Nowitzki's abbreviated return by beating Dallas.

Darrell Arthur finished with 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting from the field, and Rudy Gay added 16 as the Grizzlies won their second straight and fifth in the last seven.

Nowitzki, Dallas' leading scorer with 24.1 points per game, returned after missing nine games with a sprained right knee. But he managed only seven points before being ejected in the third quarter as the Mavs were held to their lowest point total of the season and lost their fifth straight.

Hornets 88, Bobcats 81

In Charlotte, David West had 26 points and eight rebounds as a weary New Orleans took advantage of Tyrus Thomas' late ejection to beat Charlotte for its fourth straight victory.

Chris Paul added 19 points in his return to his home state for the Hornets, who after playing their second straight overtime game didn't arrive at their Charlotte hotel until 6:15 a.m. Saturday following travel problems.

Thomas was ejected for elbowing Emeka Okafor in the face after grabbing a rebound with 2:38 left and New



Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose who had 34 points guards the Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade who had 33 points late in the fourth quarter as the Bulls beat the Heat 99-96 in an NBA basketball game in Chicago, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

Orleans up 81-77. Okafor and West hit four straight free throws following the flagrant foul to put it away.

Rockets 112, Hawks 106

In Atlanta, Aaron Brooks had 24 points and 10 assists, Luis Scola added 20 points as Houston beat Atlanta.

Houston overcame a nine-point deficit in the third quarter after rookie forward Patrick Patterson left Phillips Arena in an ambulance because of chest pain and congestion.

Joe Johnson scored 30 points for At-

lanta, which had a 10-game home winning streak ended.

Kyle Lowry and Jordan Hill each scored 16 points for Houston, which ended a two-game slide.

Magic 108, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Jason Richardson scored 21 points to lift Orlando over Minnesota.

Dwight Howard had 16 points and nine rebounds and J.J. Redick scored 21 for the Magic, who ended a two-game skid and have now won 10 of

their last 12.

Corey Brewer had 23 points and five steals and Kevin Love had 11 points and 15 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who committed 12 turnovers in the second half to give away a 15-point lead.

Wizards 98, Raptors 95

In Washington, Nick Young had his second big home game in a row, scoring 18 of his 29 points in the third quarter as Washington beat Toronto.

Young didn't match the 43 he posted

against Sacramento four nights earlier, but he again ignited a Wizards team that continues to look decent at home and terrible on the road. Washington improve to 11-8 at the Verizon Center, hardly enough to offset its 0-19 mark on the road.

Young made 10 of 19 field goals, including eight in a row at one point. He scored the Wizards' first 13 points of the second half, all jumpers from at least 15 feet, and he went 5 for 6 from the free throw line in the final 18 seconds.

Andrea Bargnani had 15 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter for the Raptors.

Pistons 110, Kings 106

In Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored 21 points, Rodney Stuckey added 19, and Detroit beat Sacramento.

Detroit lost starting point guard Tracy McGrady to a shin injury in the first quarter, but even with the Pistons down a guard, Richard Hamilton was benched for the third straight game.

Will Bynum added 17 for Detroit, which had six players in double figures.

Nuggets 127, Cavaliers 99

In Denver, Nene scored 22 points, Chauncey Billups and Arron Afflalo each added 21 as Denver handed Cleveland its 19th straight road loss.

Cleveland kept it close early, even with only eight players available due to a rash of injuries and Ryan Hollins missing the game because of a death in the family. But the Nuggets went on a 43-18 run early in the second quarter to turn the game into a blowout.

Ramon Sessions scored 21 points and Antawn Jamison added 17 for the Cavs, who dropped their 13th straight game.

Trail Blazers 96, Nets 89

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge's 27 points helped Portland defeat New Jersey.

Brook Lopez scored 32 points for the Nets, who led by as many as 13 points in the first half but couldn't fend off the late rally by the Trail Blazers. It was New Jersey's fifth straight loss.

Nicolas Batum had a season-high 23 points for the Blazers, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Maruyama, Appleby share lead at Sony Open



HONOLULU (AP)—For the second straight day, Stuart Appleby plodded along the soft fairways of Waialae until he closed strong with improbable shots for eagle or a string of birdies.

That recipe could really come in handy Sunday.

Appleby, who holed out with a 5-iron for eagle on the 16th hole in the opening round, chipped in from 90 feet across the green on the par-3 seventh Saturday. That was part of a birdie-birdie-birdie finish for a 4-under 66 and a share of the lead with Shigeiki Maruyama.

But the tournament is only half over.

Because of rain that washed out play Thursday, the Sony Open will try to finish Sunday with a 36-hole finale.

"A bit of a crap shoot," Appleby said.

"There's a lot of guys in this tournament, absolutely. So it'll be a very interesting finish."

If the trade wind ever arrives, just about everybody is still in the hunt.

Appleby and Maruyama, who had his second straight 65, were at 10-under 130. They were one shot clear of Roland Thatcher (65), Steve Marino (67) and Mark Wilson (67). Another shot back was a group that included Justin Rose (68) and Matt Kuchar (68), who has picked up from last year when he won the PGA Tour money title and Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average.

The cut was at 1-under 139, and 83 players will get paid.

But because of the 36-hole final, the playing cut was the number of players nearest to 60. With late birdies by Daniel Summerhays and Matt McQuillan, that cut was 56 player at 3-under 137.

That knocked out the likes of Vijay

Singh and Zach Johnson.

The gap between top to bottom at the start of Sunday will be seven shots, which can easily be made up over 36 holes.

"Guys can win from seven and eight back on days like that," said Davis Love III, who shot a 66 and was only four behind. "That makes it interesting. It's whoever gets hot with the putter."

The 41-year-old Maruyama, who hasn't won on the PGA Tour since 2003, loves playing Waialae because the size of his Japanese gallery is larger than usual and there usually isn't a premium on power along the palm tree-lined fairways.

He's not sure about Sunday, however. He looked at his shoes and said with a laugh, "My feet. It's a problem."

"I'm getting older, and 36 holes is going to be a struggle," Maruyama.

What should help is the flat property of Waialae, an old-styled course near

the shores of Waikiki Beach.

Anthony Kim matched the low score of the day with a 64 to reach 5-under 135. He was tied with Ernie Els, who might have an advantage based on his experience - not only from winning at Waialae, but playing 36 holes on the last day.

Els faced a 36-hole final round just last month in winning the South African Open. And not many will forget that 36-hole final at Bay Hill in 1998 when he overwhelmed Tiger Woods and Love in the final group.

"That turned out good," Els said, smiling. "I'm kind of looking forward to tomorrow. I've got a month off after tomorrow, and I'd like to let it all hang out."

Just like his opening round, Appleby wasn't doing much overly exciting. He was 1 under for his round with three holes to play when he chipped in for an improbable birdie on the seventh. Then came an approach to 2 feet on the next hole for a tap-in birdie, and he reached

the green in two on the par-5 ninth for a two-putt birdie and a share of the lead.

"Tomorrow, we've got a bit of a sprint, even though it's going to take us all day," Appleby said.

It's not unusual for the PGA Tour to cut to the nearest number of players to 60. The priority always is to finish on Sunday, and that's the first option mentioned in its guidelines.

But it could lead to an awkward finish. Love recalls early in his career playing the Colonial, which Keith Clearwater won by three shots despite finishing on the ninth hole in the final round.

Els, for example, will be in the first group off Sunday morning on the first tee. There will be no time to change the groups based on third-round scores, so the South African will finish on the ninth hole.

"Anybody who's made the cut has got a decent change to play for the championship tomorrow," Thatcher said.

MHS 1 defeats Southern in soccer

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The Marianas High School's varsity team defeated Saipan Southern High School, 2-1 in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Soccer League last Thursday at the SSHS Field.

Alodia Lumasag scored both goals for MHS 1. She netted the first goal in the 11th minute mark of the first half and then scored again near the eight-minute mark of the second half.

Southern's lone goal came from Medissa Omni, who found the back of the net in the 15th minute of the second half.

The win was first for the Lady Dolphins as their debut game



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Members of the Marianas High School 1 are all smiles after beating Saipan Southern High School, 2-1, in the MISO soccer league last Thursday at the SSHS Field.

of the season last Wednesday against Kagman High School resulted in a 1-1 draw. Lumasag also scored MHS1's lone goal in the contest.

Meanwhile, action in the MISO soccer league will con-

tinue tomorrow with the Lady Ayuyus taking on MHS 2 at the SSHS Field at 4:15pm.

All games will be played at the SSHS Field until further notice. The games are originally scheduled at the Oleai Sports

Complex Field but have to be moved due to the facility's recent closure.

Trench Tech looks for exciting MMA in 2011

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

After a fruitful 2010, Trench Tech is upbeat about the 2011 season, which it will kick off with the Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions on March 11.

"2010 was a great year for Trench Tech and Mixed Martial Arts. Professional fighters from the USA, Japan, Korea, and Guam all competed on Saipan last season. We also had a huge impact on Tinian and had Tinian fighters participate in all events," Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez.

"This shows the evolution of

Games start at 4:15pm and teams play two 30-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break. MHS 1, MHS 2, KHS, and SSHS make up the four-team field. The playoffs will start on February 11 with MISO

hoping Tinian High School will make it to Saipan and compete with the rest of the field.

For more information, contact Nick Gross at nickgross07@gmail.com or Glenn Smith at tenaday@yahoo.com.

MMA in the CNMI and helps us to keep upping the level every year. Trench Tech strives to continue bringing top level MMA talents from around the world for the awesome fans of the CNMI for many years to come," Alvarez said.

After the Bad Intentions, Trench Tech will also have The Art of War 6: Grappling and Submission Challenge on April 23; Trench Warz 14: Ground Zero June 3, 2011; ROP: Onra on August 26; and Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on November 18.

Meanwhile, Alvarez looked back at some of the biggest MMA events in the CNMI last year. These include the bouts between CNMI and Korean Top Team fighters. In Rites of Passage 8: Fearless, three Saipan fighters gauged their skills against KTT bets and re-

corded a 1-2 slate. Then CNMI recovered in Trench Warz 12: Battle Brawl, going 2-for-3 in the bouts.

The Commonwealth also saw Ultimate Fighting Championship's The Ultimate Fighter contender, JJ Ambrose, in action against a pro-fighter from Japan. Alvarez added Trench Tech's yearend Fan Appreciation Night event was also a big hit and 2010 saw Tinian fighters showing force in the octagon.

"I think a lot of Tinian fighters had an outstanding year. On the local scene, I'd have to credit Slade "The Rage" Adelbai with his high-note ending and retirement along with Chris "No Love" Layuug's and Gio "Palaxi" Sablan's victories over their Korean professionals. I want to give all our competitors their rightful props for stepping in the cage," Alvarez said.

TALAVERA

From Page 28

right to face the former in the championship. Musca went on to beat Manacop in the playoffs, 208-185.

In the championship, Talavera earned a twice-to-beat advantage and failed to win the title outright after Musca won Game 1, 212-203. In the deciding Game 2, Ta-

lavera managed to regain his form and nailed a 231-195 win to snap his losing streak in the season-ending roll-off.

"In the past years, I either finished runner-up or sometimes did not even make it to the stepladder finals despite winning several monthly awards," said the owner of four perfect games at SBC.

In 2009, Talavera was only sixth in the qualifier with his 1,642 and failed to march into

the stepladder finals. Percy Omechelang won the 2009 title and missed a chance to defend his championship when he ended up in fifth place in the qualifying tournament.

"I am really happy to win for the first time. If I didn't win the 2010 tournament, I knew it will be harder in the next few years, as I am not getting any younger anymore and my knee is hurting," the 43-year-old bowler said.

Talavera played in the season-finales roll-off with a bandaged left knee, which he cramped in the early games in the qualifier.

The annual tournament started in 2004 with Mark Halstead as the inaugural winner. Richard Leon topped the 2005 event, then Angeles won in 2006 and 2008. Jon Hensley prevailed in 2007 and two years later, it was Omechelang's turn to join the elite group.

HOUSE

From Page 28

rior. Ed Cosino led a well-balanced attack for The House with his five markers in the first quarter.

However, Under The Rim refused to give up and moved within one at the break, 30-31. Yosh Gabaldon nailed four three-pointers in the first half to keep Under the Rim afloat. Six different players accounted for The House's 13 points in the second quarter.

It was still a one-possession game, 52-49, in favor of The House heading into the final period. Both teams found a little more offense after some halftime adjustments, but The House maintained its composure to keep the lead throughout the contest. Tony Diaz led The

House with seven points in the third quarter. Ray Lizama delivered nine points in the fourth to keep Under the Rim in the fight, but did not receive enough bench support.

With The House doing a good job in preserving its lead, Under the Rim gave up fouls in the homestretch to snag a lifeline, but the former converted eight free throws to secure the victory.

Lizama and Gabaldon combined for 39 points in the loss and almost bested the combined output of The House's Diaz, Cosino, and Bruce Berline, who totaled 40 markers.

In the 45A playoff tiff, Kitty Kat took control of the game right out of the gate with Jun Abedes tallying 11 markers in the first period and giving his team a 24-13 lead.

Abedes sat out in the sec-

ond period and things slowed down a little bit for Kitty Kat, which led by only eight at halftime, 38-30.

Then in the third quarter, Kitty Kat began firing again. Nine markers from Warren Villegas led the way for Kitty Kat, as it surged ahead, 63-42, heading into the final period. The game was out of reach for the Undertakers by the start of the last period, as teams essentially traded baskets in the final canto.

Abedes had a game-high 22 points and received 19 from teammate Villegas, while Joe Tudela managed 21 points to lead Undertakers.

Kitty Kat will play in the 45A finals the winner of the Top 45 and Taga Security tiff tomorrow, while The House will face in the 40A title game the victor of the playoff game between Armatech and Island-

er Rent-A-Car.

First Game

The House 78 – Diaz 16, Cosino 14, Berline 10, G. Masga 7, Palacios 7, Tudela 7, Pineda 6, Villarín 5, Bicara 4, Abedes 2.

Island Apparel – Under The Rim 68 – Lizama 24, Gabaldon 15, Irinaka 10, O. Masga 8, Norman 4, Sablan 4, Olivos 2, Zapata 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 31-30, 52-49, 78-68.

Second Game

Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders 85 – Abedes 22, Villegas 19, Bugay 10, Garcia 8, Tipples 8, Valencia 6, Delos Santos 4, Iglecias 2, Sahagon 2.

Undertakers 60 – Tudela 21, Camacho 15, Demapan 8, Iglesias 6, Villasan 6, Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-13, 38-30, 63-42, 85-60

THIRD

From Page 28

ter whipping Grace Christian Academy, 68-50.

In the first match, the Dolphins outgunned the Knights in overtime, 15-9, to foil Mt. Carmel's upset bid and hand the latter a 0-3 card. Ezra Caro drilled four of his 14 markers in overtime, while John Darag made five of his 12 in the extension. Ryan Ichihara, Ed Manalili, and Richard Mendiola had one field goal apiece in overtime.

Reynald Cabaltica carried the cudgels in Mt. Carmel's losing effort, posting seven of the team's nine markers in the

extra period. His basket in the last two seconds of the regulation sent the game in overtime. Cabaltica led all scorers with 23 points.

In the second game, Southern started pulling away in the third period and withstood GCA's fourth-quarter rally to gain its first win in three games.

After a 27-23 lead at halftime, Melvin Cadiang and Joseph Jung teamed up in Southern's third quarter attack for a 49-39 advantage. The Rays extended the margin to as much as 15 in the fourth period, 58-43, with 6:09 left on the clock.

Dae Min Jeon and Angelo Salas then anchored a 7-0 run, moving the Eagles within eight,

50-58, 3:44 to go in the final canto. However, Southern had a 10-0 windup behind Tristan Ecalnea' six points to preserve the win for Southern.

The Eagles dropped to a 1-2 record, absorbing their second straight loss after a 55-44 debut win over the Knights. GCA kept pace with Southern in the first half and even led after the opening quarter, 10-9, before running out of offensive options in the second half. Only Jeon and Salas made more than two field goals for GCA and it did not help that the Eagles muffed 19 free throws.

First Game

MHS 66 – Caro 14, Manali-

li 13, Darag 12, Ichihara 6, Sarmiento 6, Duatin 4, Mendiola 3, Yap 1, Suarez 1.

MCS 60 – Cabaltica 2, M. Kim 11, Griffin 8, Gagaring 5, Baka 4, Saludez 4, Sanchez 2, Bautista 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-8, 29-26, 41-42, 51-51, 66-60.

Second Game

SSHS 68 – Jung 12, Cadiang 11, Tudela 10, Ecalnea 10, Castro 6, Sula 4, Byun 4, Villnueva 2. Ngeskebei 2, Ferrer 1.

GCA 50 – Jeon 26, A. Salas 9, Hong 7, J. Salas 4, Borja 2, Choi 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-10, 27-23, 49-49, 68-50.

CASTRO

From Page 28

1982, while Angeles was the last before Castro. Angeles joined the Club 300 on June 26, 2009 during the Friday Night League at the Capital Bowling Center. Talavera owned the most perfect games with four, including the rare back-to-back 300 games in September 2007.

Before his perfect game, Castro's best score was 290.

"I kept on playing in almost every tournament here, so I guess that helped a lot. I have a lot of practice when I am joining tournaments," the Puerto Rico resident said.

"Hopefully, this will not be my last. It was a good way to start the year and I hope to win more tournaments this season," Castro added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	9	.769 —
New York	22	17	.564 8
Philadelphia	16	23	.410 14
Toronto	13	27	.325 17 1/2
New Jersey	10	30	.250 20 1/2

Southeast Division

	L	Pct	GB
Miami	30	12	.714 —
Orlando	26	14	.650 3
Atlanta	26	15	.634 3 1/2
Charlotte	15	23	.395 13
Washington	11	27	.289 17

Central Division

	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	27	13	.675 —
Indiana	16	21	.432 9 1/2
Milwaukee	14	23	.378 11 1/2
Detroit	14	26	.350 13
Cleveland	8	32	.200 19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	34	6	.850 —
Dallas	26	13	.667 7 1/2
New Orleans	25	16	.610 9 1/2
Memphis	19	21	.475 15
Houston	18	23	.439 16 1/2

Northwest Division

	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	27	13	.675 —
Utah	27	13	.675 —
Denver	23	16	.590 3 1/2
Portland	21	20	.512 6 1/2
Minnesota	10	31	.244 17 1/2

Pacific Division

	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	30	11	.732 —
Phoenix	17	21	.447 11 1/2
Golden State	16	23	.410 13
L.A. Clippers	13	25	.342 15 1/2
Sacramento	9	29	.237 19 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 112, Atlanta 106
New Orleans 88, Charlotte 81
Washington 98, Toronto 95
Detroit 110, Sacramento 106
Chicago 99, Miami 96
Memphis 89, Dallas 70
Orlando 108, Minnesota 99
Denver 127, Cleveland 99
Portland 96, New Jersey 89

SONY OPEN SCORES

SECOND ROUND

Shigeki Maruyama	65-65-130
Stuart Appleby	64-66-130
Roland Thatcher	67-65-132
Steve Marino	65-67-132
Mark Wilson	65-67-132
Matt Kuchar	65-68-133
Jarrold Lyle	68-65-133

JIMMY WALKER

Justin Rose	68-65-133
Matt Bettencourt	68-65-133
Nate Smith	65-68-133
Chris DiMarco	67-67-134
Boo Weekley	68-66-134
Marc Leishman	65-69-134
Michael Connell	65-69-134
Kevin Na	67-67-134
Fredrik Jacobson	68-66-134
Davis Love III	68-66-134
Chad Campbell	67-67-134
Tag Ridings	68-67-135
Michael Sim	68-67-135
Rory Sabbatini	69-66-135
Anthony Kim	71-64-135
Jerry Kelly	68-67-135
Arjun Atwal	67-68-135
Brendon de Jonge	68-67-135
Jeff Overton	67-68-135
Chris Riley	66-69-135
Ernie Els	70-65-135
Chris Kirk	68-67-135
Daniel Summerhays	71-64-135
John Senden	71-65-136
John Merrick	69-67-136
Tim Clark	68-68-136
Steve Stricker	69-67-136
Jason Day	69-67-136
Cameron Beckman	69-67-136
Charlie Wi	68-68-136
WC Liang	66-70-136
D.J. Brigrum	70-66-136
Jesper Parnevik	70-66-136
Jason Dufner	69-67-136
Billy Mayfair	67-70-137
Brandt Jobe	67-70-137
Ryan Palmer	68-69-137
Alex Prugh	70-67-137
Kevin Chappell	70-67-137
Colt Knost	68-69-137
Steven Bowditch	67-70-137
Aaron Baddeley	73-64-137
Webb Simpson	68-69-137
Jonathan Byrd	69-68-137
Brian Gay	69-68-137
Jason Bohn	68-69-137
Spencer Levin	70-67-137
Matt McQuillan	68-69-137

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

MISO STANDINGS

Varsity

	W	L
MHS	3	0
KHS	2	0
SSHS	1	1
GCA	1	2
MCS	0	3

Junior Varsity

	W	L
MHS	1	0
SSHS	1	1
KHS	0	1

Weekend Sports

After the holiday break, CNMI athletes and sports federations slowly went back to business last week.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association started 2011 with the 4th Annual Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament that drew 16 squads.

Tyce Mister and Melody Matson then went undefeated in the double-elimination tournament to rule the event and dethrone 2010 champion Heather Kennedy and Randy Steele. Matson and Mister topped Kennedy and Johnson in the finals, 23-21.

Saipan Bowling Association

CNMI athletes back to business

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

had its season-ending roll-offs last week with Gloria Omechelang and Marion McKenzie taking the 2010 Budweiser Queen of the Lane tiara and Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes crown, respectively.

Omechelang secured the title after prevailing over Yho Villavicencio in Game 1 of the finals, 170-134, while McKen-

zie stunned the favored M.J. Aldan in the championship game, 200-175.

The 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League had Week 2 of its regular season games with defending champion Kagman High School posting back-to-back wins and Marianas High School improv-

ing to a perfect 3-0 record.

Still in basketball, Master Basketball Federation of the NMI closed out its regular season games in the Memorial Cup with Island Apparel-Under The Rim nailing the last playoff seat in the 40A division.

While the Memorial Cup is nearing its end, MISO just started its girls volleyball and soccer

season last week.

Marianas High School 1 went 2-0 in the opening day after beating Saipan Southern High School and Kagman High School. Saipan International School was also undefeated last week, downing MHS 2 and Kagman.

In tennis, Thea Minor completed her three tournaments

in Australia last week, winning her opening round game in her third tournament—the Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships—in Wodonga in Victoria, Australia.

Minor's fellow junior tennis players—Negahr Rastguiry and Michael Ren—were among the student-athletes recognized in a brief ceremony at the TSL Plaza last week. The two netters, bowlers Aldan and McKenzie, and basketball players Juan's Maratita and Lia Rangamar were honored as student athletes of the month (from September to December).



A Marianas High School 1 player stops the ball in the second set of their match against Saipan Southern High School at the start of the MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball season last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



Grace Christian Academy's Moon Bin Hong is double teamed by MHS defenders during their varsity game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Islander Rent-A-Car's Dennis Pacheco skies to the hoop for a fast-break lay up in last week's MBFNMI Memorial Cup 40A game against Island Apparel's Under The Rim at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Gloria Omechelang, left, and Marion McKenzie pose for a photo after ruling Saipan Bowling Association's season-ending roll-offs last week at the Saipan Bowling Center.



Student Athlete of the Month (for November) Michael Ren of tennis poses with TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola during a brief awards ceremony at the TSL Plaza last week.



Kagman High School's Kroy Ogo pulls up for a jumper against a Saipan Southern High School defender during their varsity game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The champion duo—Melody Matson and Tyce Mister—are all smiles after beating Heather Kennedy and Randy Steele in the finals.



Student Athlete of the Month (for October) M.J. Aldan of bowling poses with TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola during a brief awards ceremony at the TSL Plaza last week.



PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



PAGE 27

28 MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Talavera crowned King of the Lanes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finally. After falling short in the past years, Robert Talavera won his first King of the Lanes title, beating Rusty Musca, 434-407, in the finals yesterday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

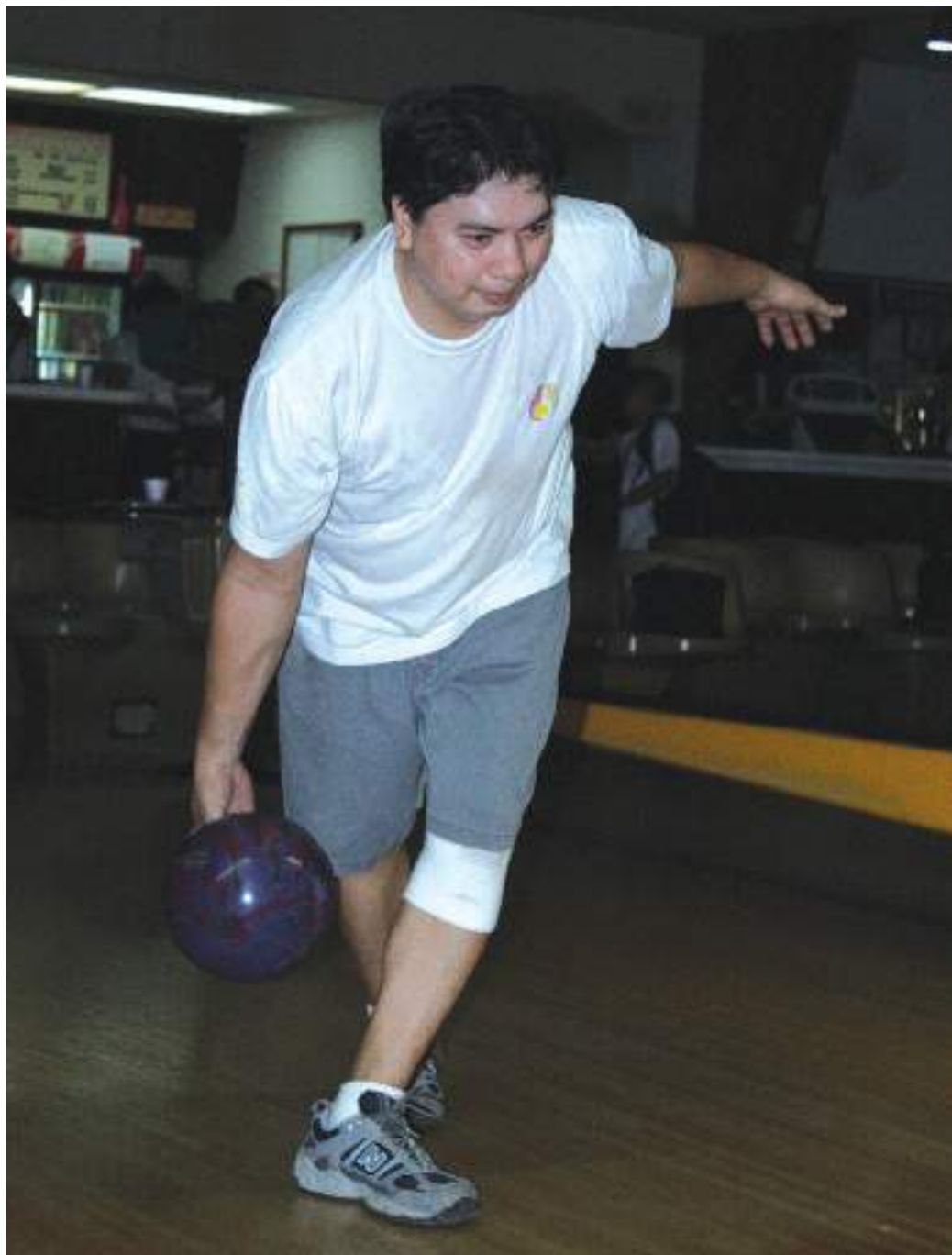
"I had been winning in several tournaments, but this [King of the Lanes] was an elusive one. It felt great to finally win this year," Talavera said.

Talavera made it to finals of Saipan Bowling Association's 2010 Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament after topping the nine-game roll-off with his 1,860 pinfalls and average of 206.67 per game.

Joining him in the stepladder finals were Musca and Simon Manacop. Musca had a nine-game total of 1,757 and average of 195.22 pinfalls against Manacop's 1,752 and 194.67 average.

In the stepladder finals, Talavera drew an automatic finals berth, while Manacop and Musca slugged it out for the

See **TALAVERA** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robert Talavera gets ready to throw during the Saipan Bowling Association's 2010 Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament yesterday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Castro joins perfect game club

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The perfect game club welcomed Alex Castro to the elite group last Saturday.

Castro posted a perfect game during the 44th Philippine Bowling Association Saturday Night League at the Saipan Bowling Center. A perfect game is known as a 300-point game or "300" with a bowler throwing 12 straight strikes, one strike in each of the first nine frames, and three in the 10th frame, as strike counts as 10 points plus any pins hit in the next two balls.

"I was one lucky man that night," said Castro, who bowled on lanes 3 and 4 with SBC/J's Restaurant against Team Mobil.

"I struggled in my previous games and threw bad before that, so I wasn't expecting to have a perfect game. Then came the last frame, and I was really pressured to deliver. Fortunately, I kept my focus and managed to hit 300," the 31-year-old bowler said.

Castro's perfect game was the first this year and it made him the 11th kegler to join the elite club. The list includes Benny Pangelinan, Jaime Sasamoto, Jonathan Hensley, Dannie Robles, Robert Talavera, Raymond Zapanta, Richard Leong, Arnel Del Rosario, Efrén Cacadac, and Raymond Angeles.

Pangelinan was the first bowler to log a perfect game, making the feat in March 10,

See **CASTRO** on Page 26



Castro

Third in a row for MHS; first for Southern

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Southern High School broke into the win column, while Marianas High School extended its streak after prevailing in separate varsity games in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic

Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The MHS Dolphins played in the curtain raiser and survived Mt. Carmel School in overtime, 66-60, to improve to a 3-0 record and take the solo lead in the varsity division. In the second game, Southern snapped its two-game losing skid af-

See **THIRD** on Page 26

The House, Kitty Kat enter finals



WALTER SUTHERLAND
Kitty Kat Ferrera Builder's Jun Abedes, center, goes strong to the basket against two Undertakers defenders during their 45A division playoff game in the Memorial Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Kitty Kat Builders and The House marched into the finals of their respective divisions after recording contrasting wins in the playoff round of the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kitty Kat entered the playoffs as the last seeded team in the 45A division and pulled off an upset over the top-ranked Undertakers, 85-60. In the 40A play, The House got the job done against the hard-fighting Island Apparel-Under The Rim, 78-68.

In a very close 40A playoff match, The House went ahead, 18-16, after the opening pe-

See **HOUSE** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Southern's Joseph Jung, left, challenges the defense of GCA's Dæmin Jeon during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Southern won, 68-50.